

BERKELEY STREET GARDEN

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

AS SUBMITTED TO THE
BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MAY 5, 1992

APPENDICES

PREPARED BY:
SOUTH END LOWER ROXBURY OPEN SPACE TRUST
BOSTON URBAN GARDENERS AT THE COMMUNITY FARM
BERKELEY STREET GARDEN COMMITTEE



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Appendix 1

History of Open Space in the South End

History of Open Space as told through news clippings

9/21/76	Boston Phoenix	Luis Lopez and his garden of urban delights
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		"We'll be Able to Grow Food instead of Garbage..."
10/24/76	Boston Phoenix	Urban Gardening: The Plot Thickens
4/28/77	Boston Globe	Breadbasket Boston
5/22/79	South End News	Urban Gardens Blossom In South end Community
10/10/81	South End News	Garden Ownership Negotiations Begin
1981	Boston Globe	Gardeners in South End reaping a friendship crop
1981	Boston Globe	"Family farms" to bloom from South End blight
1981		Gardener's Dinner
10/24/81	South End News	Howko Provides Grapes for South Enders
10/24/81	South End News	Residents Favor Garden Purchasee
11/21/82	South End News	How Safe are Urban Gardens?
12/5/81	South End News	BUG Answers Questions About Garden Safety
9/1/82	South End News	Visitors Applaud Gardens
5/17/84	South End News	The South End...
12/5/85	South End News	Parking proponents, gardeners clash over space provisions
12/12/85	South End News	MBTA dumps parking lot; Go ahead given to park
12/12/85	South End News	Residents reject proposed parking lots
3/20/86	South end News	Photo - Seed Talk
6/5/86	South End News	Thefts Hit Gardens
7/31/86	South End News	Gardeners organize to save open space
8/28/86	South End News	Save community gardens
9/8/86	Boston Herald	Re-planting needed
10/16/86	South End News	Gardeners should fight to preserve open space
11/3/86	Boston Herald	Gardeners dig in vs. bulldozers
11/4/86	Boston Herald	Gardeners crop up to halt bulldozers
11/5/86	Boston Herald	Gardeners uprooted; project work begins
11/5/86	Boston Globe	Housing units to uproot communal garden
11/6/86	South End News	Bay Village residents fight excavation of local garden
1987	Boston Globe	Parks and Poverty
2/26/87	Boston Globe	Zoning code changes focus on parking, housing problems
3/5/87	South End News	Wide Open Spaces
3/26/87	South End News	Garden green
4/2/87	South End News	Annual meeting announcement SEGP
5/13/87	Boston Globe	Flynn readying plan to protect open space
9/1/87	The Tab	Victory of the Green
9/3/87	South End News	Photo - Garden greenery
9/13/87	Boston Globe	Plotting greener use of vacant space
11/30/87	Boston Globe	Parks, space seen as key to Boston's well-being
2/9/88	The Tab	South End Study Calls For Incease in Open Public Space
2/11/88	South End News	Photo - The good earth
3/3/88	South End News	Open Question
3/17/88	South End News	Great Gardeners
4/14/88	South End News	Many Meetings
4/28/88	South End News	Photo - The Plots thicken
4/21/88	South end News	The open question: housing or open Space?
5/1/88	Boston Herald	BRA to consider South End Housing & park needs together
5/12/88	South End News	Green acres
5/26/88	South End News	Photo - Swap Meet
6/28/88	The Tab	Bay Village vs. BRA
7/21/88	South End News	Room to grow
7/21/88	South End News	Photo - How does your garden grow?
8/18/88	South End News	Photo - Growing Season
9/25/88	Boston Globe	Urban Preserves
5/18/89	South End News	Photo - Above Ground
6/8/89	South End News	Photo - Growing Season
4/12/90	South End News	South End gardens expected to get permanent status from city
4/12/90	South End News	Fertile ground for planting
4/26/90	South End News	Garden Plot
4/30/90	New York Times	Photo - City Year at Berkeley Gardens

5/23/90
6/28/90
7/5/90
7/13/90
7/19/90
7/26/90
9/27/90
12/6/90

New York Times
South End News
South End News
South End News
South End News
South End News
South End News
South End News

Adversity can help a garden to grow
Turning over a new leaf
Photo - Growing Season
Photo - Mending Fences
Photo - Green grows their garden
Garden Party
A real garden spot
Planting the seeds of debate

Luis Lopez and his garden of urban delights

Down on the South End farm

By Jeff Gussman

Luis Lopez found his way back to the land this summer — without even having to leave the South End.

He spent most of the daylight hours working in the new community garden at the corner of Marlboro and Washington Streets, across the block from his apartment.

The garden is located on a big lot, 30 by 100 feet in size. Twenty years ago the elevated tracks across Washington Street, a mile or two away. In June, the lot was covered with rubble. In July, Lopez and his wife and neighbors started to, asked each other what it had decided to take a more extensive plan. On one of them, Lopez, his wife and their children are growing vegetables. On the other, their neighbors are doing the same.

"Looking to make a garden on that land was almost along the city council," Lopez says. "It was a long process, but it was worth it. It was a long process, but it was worth it. It was a long process, but it was worth it."

He is in the mid-40s, a short, stocky, mustachioed man with a warm smile. Nearly every day this summer he went out to his home during the vegetables in the plot — tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, corn, sweet potatoes, green peppers, hot peppers and other Spanish-style foods. Lopez's home, their English garden. "When I'm done with my garden, I help the others," he says. "The other people are from the city. They don't know how to use the land. So I show them."

Lopez was born on a farm near the village of Aspinwall, where he was 15, he quit school to help his father with the farm. Lopez was 15, he quit school to help his father with the farm. Lopez was 15, he quit school to help his father with the farm.

For a year, he worked on a farm in New Mexico, then moved to Boston. Except for a few short stints in Puerto Rico "to help my mother plant," his farming days were over.

Luis Lopez and his garden of urban delights

Down on the South End farm

by Jeff Sommer

Luis Lopez found his way back to the land this summer — without ever having to leave the South End.

He spent most of the daylight hours working in the new community garden at the corner of Rutland and Washington Streets, down the block from his apartment.

The garden is located on a big lot, 50 by 100 feet in size. Trains roar over the elevated tracks above Washington Street a scant 20 feet away. In June, the lot was littered with rubble. In July, Luis and his family and neighbors cleaned it, raked fresh topsoil over it and divided it into a dozen separate plots. On one of them, Luis, his wife and their children are growing vegetables. On the others, their neighbors are doing the same.

"Letting us make a garden on that land was the best thing the city could do," Luis says slowly, groping for words, in an accent heavy with the flavor of rural Puerto Rico.

He is in his mid-30s, a short, stocky, moustachioed man with a warm smile. Nearly every day this summer, he spent one or two hours caring for the vegetables on his plot — tomatoes, potatoes, beans, corn, sweet potatoes, green peppers, hot peppers and diverse Spanish spices (Luis doesn't know their English names). "When I'm done with my garden, I help the others," he says. "The other people are from the city. They don't know how to use the land. So I show them."

Luis was born on a farm near the village of Araceibo. When he was 12, he quit school to help his father with the farm chores. His family was poor. "I left Puerto Rico seven or eight years ago. I come here and send back money to help my father," Luis says.

For a year, he worked on a farm in New Jersey, then moved to Boston. Except for a few trips back to Puerto Rico "to help my brother plant," his farming days were over.



He works as a teacher's aide at the Carter School in Lower Roxbury from September to June. He says he likes the job because "I love children and it lets me be with my family in the summer."

His yen for farming did not let up, though. Luis indulged it somewhat by planting a little vegetable garden behind his apartment building. But each day he passed the big abandoned lot on the corner and "thought what a good place it would be for growing vegetables."

In June one of his children told him that some community organizers had gotten permission from the city for community residents to do just that. (Actually, the Boston Redevelopment Authority owns the Rutland Street site and scores of others throughout Boston.) The organizers called a meeting and Luis was there.

They explained that they had gotten the BRA and private contractors to donate equipment and labor to clear the lot; that the Metropolitan District Commission would give them topsoil from the Marlboro Tidal Basin; that the National Guard and private contractors would truck in the dirt; that the United South End Settlements would give them tools;

(Jeff Sommer, a recent graduate of the Columbia School of Journalism, is a Cambridge freelancer.)



Luis Lopez: the farmer and the 'El'

and that the Department of Public Works would give them equipment to hook up to fire hydrants to irrigate the gardens.

This was all Luis and the other people on Rutland Street needed to hear. By mid-July the lot had been fully planted, and its crops are sprouting now. With his hard-won farming knowledge, Luis became a kind of garden leader.

"My family will save \$200 or \$300 by growing vegetables here," Luis says. "I tell the others that if they plant and work they will save the same."

But what Luis likes most about the garden is that it gives him a chance to work on the land and to teach others. "Especially my children," Luis says. "They live in the city. Now I show them how to plant and grow."

More than a score of people have worked on the Rutland Street plot. "The others are families, like ours," Luis says. "Everybody comes out to work."

The Rutland Street garden is only one of seven community gardens started this year in the South End and Lower Rox-

bury — the largest urban renewal project in the country — on lots owned by the BRA, at little cost to the public and with immense community enthusiasm.

The lots had been idle for years. They were, in most cases, the sites of buildings that had been demolished in the BRA's ambitious — some would say insensitive — urban renewal efforts. Residents of the community, organized by the South End Project Area Committee (SEPAC) — a watchdog group set up by the city to oversee urban development within the South End and Lower Roxbury — had opposed the BRA's planned replacement housing.

Residents said rents in the new buildings would be too high for them to afford. Many people had been forced out of their apartments with the promise that the new housing would be built for them. Residents left in the community wanted to make sure that it would be, and their protests stalled the BRA's plans — which were finally stopped when federal funds dried up. The abandoned lots are a bitter

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Gardens

Continued from page 10

reminder to both sides of the battles over urban renewal.

Now some of the BRA's lots are being used again, and if the organizers of the South End Garden Project have their way, one day all the abandoned lots in the South End and Lower Roxbury — and all the vacant land in Boston — will be used to grow food for Boston's people.

One of the people most responsible for the existence of these new urban gardens is Charlotte Kahn, a young SEPAC representative. A resident of Lower Roxbury, she helped start a small garden in her own neighborhood and then got the idea of working on a larger scale.

So she contacted State Representative Mel King, whose district includes Lower Roxbury and the South End (both part of the South End urban development area supervised by SEPAC). The Massachusetts Gardening and Farm Act of 1974, sponsored by King, "gave individuals the right to use public land for gardening and farming," King says. With the help of King's office, Kahn and other community activists selected 10 large BRA-owned lots; there were no plans to build on any of them in the near future. Seven of the lots later became gardens.

Kahn persuaded city agencies, private companies, foundations and individuals to donate labor, money, equipment and materials for the venture. Through King's office she learned that money was available for job-producing neighborhood development projects through the State Manpower Services Council under the Massachusetts Local Initiative Program. Kahn persuaded SEPAC to sponsor an application to fund the Garden Project; SEPAC, in turn, combined the gardens with a cultural program and called the combination the "Open Space Program." The State Manpower Services Council approved a grant for "Open Space" effective June 28.

The Open Space allocation gave the Garden Project money for materials and equipment. It also provided for the hiring of three gardener-organizers and three carpenters to help with landscaping and building benches, tables and frames for murals, all designed to make the gardens centers for community recreation.

The total six-month budget for Open Space is \$41,000. So far, relatively little of that money has been used to finance the gardens. Only \$1000 has been spent on garden supplies so far, according to Shaka Nkosi, the director of Open Space. The carpenters and gardener-organizers receive \$150 a week, Nkosi says, but their hiring was staggered so that it was not until the end of July that all were working.

Most of the crucial work to prepare the gardens, though, was completed by July 15 — by volunteer contractors and agencies and by community residents like Luis Lopez. Most of the supplies and equipment for the gardens were donated — in response to the appeals of Charlotte Kahn and the Open Space staff.

The level of public funding for the South End Garden Projects appears to be particularly modest when compared to the more than \$500,000 that is being spent on 21 city-sponsored, federally-funded Boston Revival Gardens throughout the city, according to Stuart Argus of the Public Facilities Department. The Revival Gardens are generally much larger and more elaborately constructed than their Open Space counterparts. But they are being built by hired contractors at a much greater cost to the pub-

inc. And many of them lag far behind the Open Space gardens in terms of community participation and actual planting.

Because it considered the Open Space gardens "a case of people in a community helping themselves grow food on land that was, essentially, abandoned by the government," Ox-fam-America, an international relief organization based in Boston, decided to make the South End gardens the first project in the United States that it would support, according to Nathan Gray, the organization's assistant director.

"In recent months, we've divided our promotional efforts between a reclamation project in Gorom-Gorom, Upper Volta, and the South End project," Gray says. "We've always supported Third World projects. While Boston isn't in the Third World, there are a lot of Third

World people here — especially in the South End and Roxbury. Our offices are located in the South End. It's a case of neighbors helping neighbors. And we've found some striking parallels between the South End Project and the project in Upper Volta.

"There was a terrible drought in Gorom-Gorom. The government said the land there was ruined, unusable. The implication was that the people had to leave. We wanted to help out, but we believe that simply pouring money and technology into an area is pointless: it creates dependency. The point is helping people change their lives. We gave the people in Gorom-Gorom expertise they didn't have — and they've been reviving their land themselves.

"The same thing is happening in the South End — although there, our help has been

symbolic so far. The land was collecting garbage. By neglecting it, the government was saying it was useless. The people in the South End are fighting that fatalism and reviving the land. And they're doing it themselves, more effectively than the government or outside contractors could do it for them."

Charlotte Kahn sees the gardens as a question of "self-determination, of people getting control of their land." She believes the project has been successful so far "because it makes use of the talents of the people who live here. Many of them come from rural areas in the South, Puerto Rico, the other Caribbean Islands, China, and the Middle East. They teach those of us from the city how to use the earth. There are 39 ethnic groups here — more than anywhere else in the city, maybe more than anywhere in the

country. It's a pleasant, safe place and it's still got diversity. We feel we're showing the rest of the city that you can have a multi-ethnic community that works."

"The Garden Project is just the beginning," adds Mel King. "We want to get into composting — producing our own top soil, making people more self-sufficient. We want to use the manure at the racetracks. The gardens will spread. We'd like to see the Southwest Corridor become a garden."

And Luis Lopez, who "never did anything with politics before," is now committed not only to "planting early next spring so we can grow more vegetables," but to sprouting more gardens around the city.

"I want to teach others how to plant. Gardens make the city a beautiful place," he says with a broad smile.

sepac

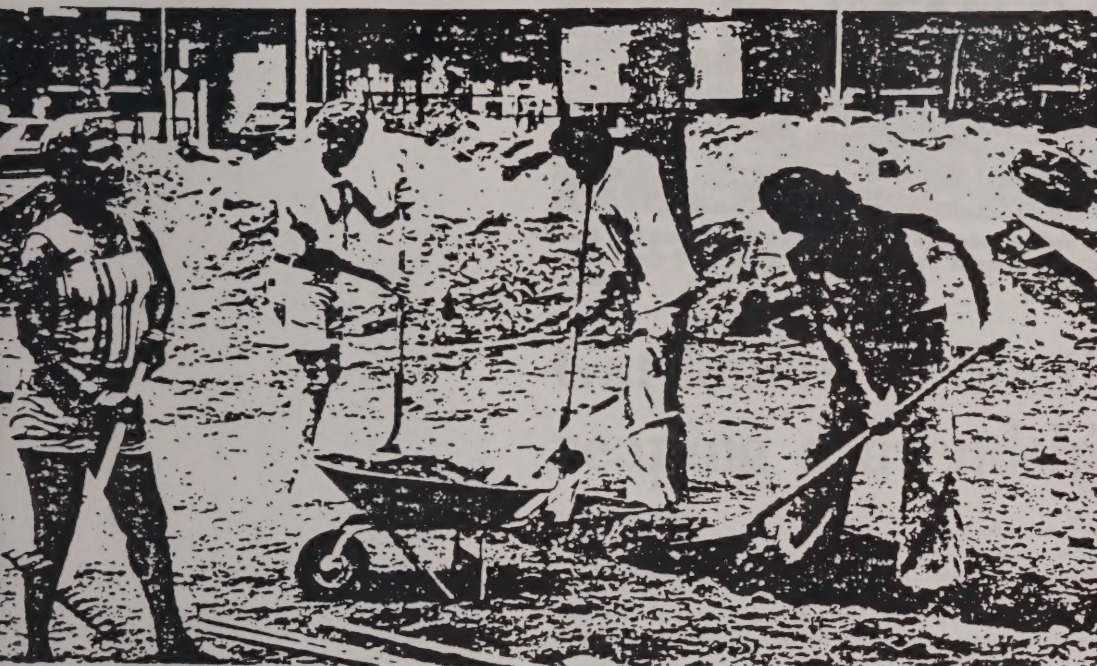
VOL. VIII, No. 3

South End Project Area Committee

NEWSLETTER

JULY, 1976

SEPAC



Open Space Project

A Summer Open Space and festival program proposed by SEPAC has been approved by the State Manpower Office Local Initiative Program (MLIP). One of 30, selected from 500 applications statewide, the SEPAC program, will provide jobs and training to unemployed residents, to distribute the 1000 trucks of topsoil, to organize community gardening projects and workshops, sponsor multicultural neighborhood festivals around the three new parks (Dorby, Sparrow, and Peter) and put in outdoor wall murals by local unemployed artists.

"We'll be Able to Grow Food Instead of Garbage . . ."

An Interview with Mel King

Slowly but surely, like a late planting of your favorite vegetable, community gardens have been sprouting around the South End. Most recently, through the sponsorship of Rep. Mel King (D — South End) and SEPAC, dozens of loads of topsoil have been trucked into the South End from an MDC facility in Marlboro.

Mel King

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE SOUTH END GARDEN PROJECT?

MEL KING: The Garden Project is an attempt to put some of the idle land in our community to work for people who want to try growing their own food.

The empty land owned by the City of Boston or the State only seems to grow garbage; it looks ugly and it's a waste of a valuable resource. We are trying to put the recent Community Gardening Act into action.

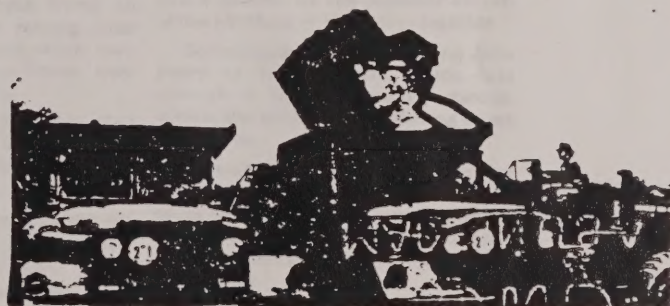
"We've made a good start," says King. "It's obvious that people are really interested in the idea of growing their own food. We'll do everything we can to get the basic resources to the neighborhoods; then it will be up to all the gardeners. If we keep at it, we'll be able to grow food instead of garbage on those lots."

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY GARDENING ACT?

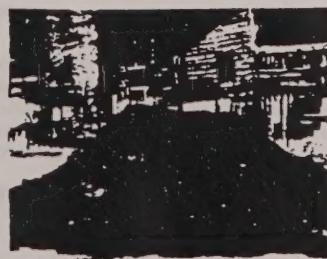
MEL KING: Two years ago the Legislature passed a bill that makes all unused state and city owned land available to citizens for gardening. Our intent was to make it more possible for people to be self-sufficient — to provide their own basic needs instead of depending on the high-priced food imported into the Commonwealth. But we quickly found that just making the land available was not enough: lots are covered with debris and construction rubble, and underneath there is not much good soil. So we set out to find some topsoil and get the lots cleared. After a long search, the MDC donated soil in Marlboro, the BRA has helped clear some of the available lots, the National Guard helped us move the first loads and neighbors have come out to spread the soil and get the gardens underway. In the last few weeks, various construction companies in the Greater Boston area have volunteered their trucks to help us move more topsoil into the South End. It takes tons of soil — and several large truck loads — cover one lot.

QUESTION: HOW CAN PEOPLE GET INVOLVED?

MEL KING: Call Charlotte Kahn or ShakaNkosi at SEPAC, 262-4318 or Mark Anderson at the Harbor Light Center, 536-7469, or my statehouse office at 727-2783. There is much, much more to do, and everyone has something to contribute!



ONE THOUSAND TRUCK LOADS OF TOPSOIL!





South End gardeners find friendship is a byproduct of their labors. From left: Alex Lopez, Cindy Seto, Sandy Seto, Shing Seto, Manuel Lopez, Louis Angel and Mark Anderson. (Globe photo by Joe Dennehy)

Gardeners in South End reaping a friendship crop

By James Stack
Globe Staff

Community gardeners in the South End are reaping a harvest far richer than the one they hoped for when they planted vegetables back in the spring.

Joe Howko, 80, and his wife, Sophie, say the tomatoes and corn are doing very nicely, thank you, but the pride of their garden is the friendship flower.

The Howkos have been living on Shawmut avenue since coming from their native Lebanon and, when they talk about the friendship flower, they are speaking symbolically.

"When I settled in the South End back in 1922 to start my barber shop, it was a great neighborhood," Howko said.

"Then a lot of our friends moved out and others moved in and, pretty soon, it was a new neighborhood."

The South End was new in the sense that it was becoming crowded with Chinese and blacks and Spanish-speaking, Howko said. The streets were full of strangers.

"Believe me," said Howko, "neighbors we have been passing on the street for years are now our friends, thanks to the garden where we all have little plots."

Charlotte Kahn and Mark Anderson, co-coordinators of the South End Garden Project, said the Howkos are one of many couples for whom urban gardening has opened up a whole new world.

There are community gardens throughout the city, but 10 are spotted throughout the South End, mostly on once vacant lots that were symbolic of urban blight.

"The community garden, as shown by the experience of the Howkos, integrates the community across social and economic lines," Kahn said.

"It gives people that something in common that they didn't have before," Anderson said. "It brings them together, when they might have remained strangers."

Kahn and Anderson said the hundreds who participate in community gardening are, for the most part, low income persons whose families eat better because of the vegetable yield produced by their new skills.

"But most important of all," Kahn said, "it teaches people that, if we can turn an old junk heap of a vacant lot into a garden, we can probably do just about anything — if we do it together."

Some South Enders, including John Perry of Haven street, which cuts through a large community garden, credits the project with reducing crime in the area.

"Residents brought together by the garden are no longer blind to what's going on next door or across the street," Anderson said. "They're suddenly interested because this is where their friends live."

The new "sense of community" developed by the garden project is thought to be the major reason for a drop in burglaries and other crimes.

The South End Garden Project was developed and functions with the continuing help of community leaders like state Rep. Mel King, (D-South End).

It is not heavily funded, but has been able to develop garden sites on land owned by the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA), using materials from a variety of donors.

The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) came up with loam from its filter beds. The Town of Wellesley chipped in with composted leaves. Suffolk Downs supplies fertilizer in abundance.

Heavy food discards

Consumers lose \$18.1 billion worth of food annually, according to the Department of Agriculture, most of it from plate discards. Spoiling and damage that is not the fault of the consumer contribute to the loss.

'Family farms' to bloom from South End blight

By James Stack
Globe Staff

Urban farming is emerging as a new and effective weapon in the war against hunger in Boston.

More than 100 poverty families in the South End may harvest as much as a year's supply of vegetables by working to grow them.

To make all this possible, the People's South End Growing Collective (PSEGC) is converting more than 76,000 square feet of urban blight into a community food basket.

"It's probably the most ambitious self-help garden project in the modern history of the neighborhood," said Dr. J.M.C. Douglas, an urban missionary assigned to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

The Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) owns and is now clearing the garden site, a littered eyesore bordered by Pembroke, Newland and West Brookline streets just behind St. Stephen's Church.

Douglas, a founding member of the gardening collective, said four public agencies, including the BRA, are cooperating in the project.

"We're counting on a thousand yards of loam from Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) filler beds," Douglas said.

The state Department of Public Works will join private contractors in transporting 15 truckloads of loam to the site on Monday, and the state Department of Community Affairs is coming up with some seeds.

"We're depending heavily on private donations for seed and other equipment," Douglas said, "but we have enough for a beginning anyway."

The gardening collective is working with the South End Garden Project (SEGP) to sharpen skills and otherwise assist participating families.

"They'll do all the work, we'll just show them how," said Mark Anderson, co-director of the SEGP. "We'll also help them as we go along."

Most of the tools needed will be supplied through the Hunger Action Team of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.

"So we'll supply tools in addition to seed, fertilizer, insecticides and whatever else we can manage through donations," Douglas said.

Douglas said a family of four can harvest enough vegetables for a year if each member works an average of an hour a day and cans the produce.

To help assure that nothing will be wasted, Douglas said, a series of canning bees will be held at St. Stephen's and at the Church of All Nations.

"In addition to helping to feed the hungry," Douglas said, "the project will also be a lesson in self-respect and, in a theological sense, respect for creation."

Families will be given garden plots of 500 square feet on the basis of interest, willingness to work the land and need.



Dr. J.M.C. Douglas and Mark Anderson of the People's South End Growing Collective ready plot behind St. Stephen's Church for vegetable garden. (Globe photo by Joseph Runci)

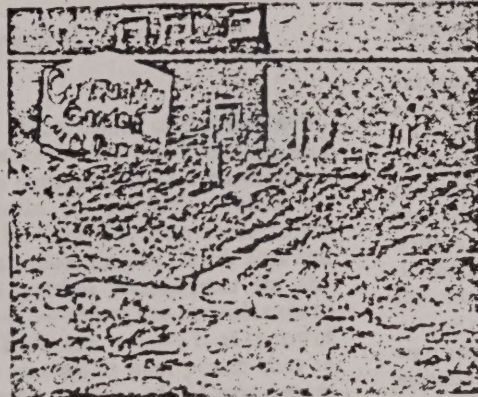
Gardeners' Dinner

by Mark Anderson

On Thursday evening, September 23, fifty people came together at 20 Union Park to celebrate their experience of gardening of six BRA formerly vacant lots. The program, which actually includes a few hundred people was spurred by Mel King's land use bill and acquisition of topsoil from the MDC. The gardens have generated many friendships and associations across the South End. The celebration included a pot-luck dinner and the laughter and the chatter were interrupted only once — by a few words from Rep. King.

He congratulated everyone heartily for their work. Some of the gardens were spread by neighborhood ABCD summer youth and Open Space community gardeners, but most of the work toward making the gardens, which included spreading upwards of 100 cubic yards of topsoil, was done by numbers of community gardeners. Mostly, Mel spoke of the possibilities for the future. "There are lots of empty window ledges, fire escapes, sidewalk planters and intersection islands," he said, "that could shine with gardens and plants." He re-emphasized that in organization there is strength and a community-based group of gardeners could carry the work started this summer much further and make the inner-city food producing.

Mel suggested a wide range of what could happen in the South End. For instance, people could be hired with the neighborhoods and the public housing to utilize empty spaces, organize people to plant gardens, work with agencies and private interests to acquire resources, and generally encourage and support the efforts of all to take care of the environment. People could teach others how to can food so that food grown in the summer could be stored for use in the winter. Recycling and composting projects could be started so that garbage could be converted into useful soil. People could participate



in window-box competitions or our own version of the county fair.

The land is our most precious resource. The feeling for it was best expressed by one of the older gardeners who came to Boston long ago from the rural South — who said, "You can't get up to heaven till you get down to the earth first."

Blackstone Square and Quincy Community Schools Solicit Membership

WE NEED YOU! COMMUNITY SPIRIT! JOIN US — BECOME INVOLVED IN A CREATIVE, MEANINGFUL WAY!

The Quincy Community School is brand new with staff, budget, and programs needing guidance by you. We need community people to join the Quincy School Community Council, and devote their energy and ideas towards developing unique new programs.

- To be eligible for Council membership, all you need to do is:
1. Fill out an application to be a member of the Corporation.
 2. To be an active voting member of the Common Council, you need to:
 2. Get 10 community people to support your membership in the Common Council.

3. Attend 2 workshops to be held in October.
For information on application forms, workshops, call:
Quincy School Community Council
843 Washington Street
426-0808

WORKSHOP I
History of Boston
Community Schools
Sat. Oct. 30th

WORKSHOP II
History of Quincy School
Community Council
Sat. Oct. 30th

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP MAKE THE DECISIONS ABOUT WHAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE BLACKSTONE SQUARE COMMUNITY SCHOOL COUNCIL'S AFTER-SCHOOL-HOUR AND SUMMER PROGRAM?

IF YOU DO, THEN:

Fill out the enclosed form and mail it or bring it to us before October 28, 1978.

By filling in the form you become a member of the Blackstone Square Community School Corporation. Members of the corporation can vote to decide who will be the members of the governing council for the rest of the year.

If you want to be nominated and elected to the council all you need to do is to:

1. be 18 years old or older.
2. live, work or be significantly involved in activities in the South End.
3. get the endorsement of at least 10 other persons who live, work or are significantly involved in activities in the South End.
4. attend at least one of three workshops about the Blackstone School Council: its history, operation and relationship to the Boston Community Schools Program which will be conducted next October 27 through 28.

5. be elected by the corporation members in our next annual meeting of NOVEMBER 9, 1978.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, REGISTRATION FORMS OR NOMINATION PAPERS FOR THE COUNCIL, SEATS CALL THE BLACKSTONE SQUARE COMMUNITY SCHOOL COUNCIL'S PROGRAM DURING THE HOURS OF 3:00 P.M. and 10:00 P.M. OR COME BY OUR OFFICES AT:

50 WEST BROOKLINE STREET
SOUTH END, BOSTON
(By the basketball yard)

REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE BLACKSTONE SCHOOL
COMMUNITY COUNCIL INC.

"I support the objectives of the Blackstone School Community Council, Inc., and I wish to participate as a member of the corporation."

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Urban gardening: The plots thicken

Cultivating 'centers of caring'

by Jeff Sommer

Imagine all the vacant lots in Boston turned into gardens. Clean, odorless compost pits converting garbage into topsoil. Solar gardens sprouting on roof-tops. Communal storehouses and canneries scattered through the streets. A giant Green Belt bounding the inner city, with parks for Sunday strolling, and farms for growing food. And imagine the inner city, "a place that looks like London and Berlin after the bombing, turned into a real center of human caring," in State Representative Mel King's version of the vision.

More than 100 environmentalists, planners, politicians, and just plain gardeners shared their visions of a new Boston at a "Conference on Urban Gardening for Self-Reliance" at the Christian A. Herter Center on October 2.

The accomplishments of the conferees, and a bus tour of some of Boston's urban gardens, showed that dramatic steps have already been taken to make these visions real.

But the conference also pointed up problems impeding agricultural redevelopment of the city, and plaguing the most ambitious urban gardening effort undertaken here so far — the city-administered, federally funded Boston Revival Program.

Urban gardening is an old idea in Boston. It started in a big way during World War II, with "Victory Gardens" in the Fenway aimed at making the city more self-sufficient and ostensibly helping America win the war. More than 500 garden plots remain in the Fenway today, according to David Wood, program director of the Herter Center, which provides technical assistance to local agriculturalists.

Until recently, those Fenway vegetable patches accounted for most of the private gardening on public land in the city. But now that's changed. Urban gardens have blossomed all over Boston and in nearby communities as well.

With a yearly budget of \$500,000 in federal revenue-sharing funds, the Boston Revival Program is the giant of the new projects. Eugenie Beal, the city's Environmental Affairs Coordinator, says that it is, in fact, the biggest dollar commitment ever made to gardening in Boston. In the one summer of its existence, the program established 20 large "revival gardens" divided up into many individual plots on abandoned lots throughout Boston owned by the city and the Boston Redevelopment Authority.

"More than 1500 people worked in the gardens," says Susan Child, director of the Revival Program. "We'll receive the same funding next year. I hope we'll have at least as many new gardens."

The city's Department of Public Facilities administers the Revival Program, and paid outside consultants and contractors plan and build its gardens. Taken together, the Revival Gardens come to six acres of land, according to Child. But Jon Ellertson, a garden coordinator for the Herter Center — one of the consultants to the Revival Program — says that many of the gardens existed in past years; they're more elaborate versions of old grass-roots community gardens.

"Once the city decided it was going to spend all that money, it went out recruiting successful gardens to join the program," Ellertson says. In other words, the Boston Revival Gardens have opened up well under six acres of land: with a \$500,000 price tag for the program, those are expensive gardens.

By contrast, other ventures, working on a much smaller scale, have started new community gardens far less expensively by tapping local initiative and enthusiasm.

This summer, in the South End and Lower Roxbury — which together comprise the largest urban renewal district in the nation — residents planted seven community gardens on lots owned by the BRA. The gardens were divided into individual plots, with more than 200 people working on them, according to Mark Anderson, one of the South End Garden Project's organizers.

"We did it cheaply because equipment, topsoil, and transportation were donated," Anderson says. "You don't need bulldozers to make gardens when you've got hundreds of people. You just hook up to your local fire hydrant, and you've got a garden."

bridge, too. Within the past few years, ten community gardens containing 400 individual plots (of 100 square feet each) have been created on city-owned land, according to Ted Live, director of community affairs for the State Department of Agriculture and coordinator of the Cambridge project.

"We established the gardens quite inexpensively, with unpaid coordinators and a part-time staff," Live says. "The Department of Public Works and the Waltham Field Station provided us with technical information, free of charge. And we got topsoil from a forest in Cambridge. Our biggest problem has been lack of space. The gardens have been so popular, we've had to turn people away."

One of the reasons people often give for wanting to start an urban garden is esthetic: even a tiny garden can make a world of difference on a concrete city street.

The other major reason is economic. "More than 85 percent of the food consumed in Massachusetts comes from outside the state," King says. State policy aims at reducing this dependency — and a vegetable garden, even a small one, has an impact. It has its biggest impact, of course, on the gardeners who eat its produce. Child estimates that a family can grow \$250 worth of vegetables on a typical Revival Garden plot.

She says that a survey taken by her office showed that there are 3800 vacant city owned lots in Boston. "Not all of them can be used for agriculture," she says, "but certainly there's room for an enormous expansion of urban gardening here."

Still, in most cases, the scattered city gardens don't add up to all that much land. Attractive though they may be, and despite their economic impact, there appears to be little disagreement that urban gardens, by themselves, offer no solution to the state's agricultural problems.

Some of the Herter conferees believe that a Green Belt — a stretch of land surrounding the inner city — is a more likely answer. Others believe that gardening



The Herter Center plots: a cultivated cornucopia.

collectives using intensive technology, greenhouses heated by solar energy and collective canneries and storehouses have a greater potential. Steps have been taken in all these directions recently.

A "Land Redevelopment Rights" bill has been introduced in the legislature, according to King, with the purpose of maintaining land now used for agriculture — if not to open up a new Green Belt. As King explains it, the bill would empower the state to purchase future development rights from farmers, ensuring that their land would be used for farming forever.

A small farm which some people view as a prototype for a future Green Belt garden has been operated since 1970 in Weston, 15 miles due west of Boston. Volunteers and paid workers from high schools, service organizations, and households in Weston, Boston, and the surrounding area, have cultivated the farm. Much of its produce has been sold to inner city dwellers and food cooperatives at reduced rates.

"We've got about 20 acres under cultivation now," says Bill McElwaine, director of the farm. "Two of those acres we rent out to 75 families. They pay us \$15 a year. In return, they get to use the land, and we manure, lime, plow, harrow, and provide water. We cultivate the rest of the land ourselves." McElwaine estimates that the farm produces 20 tons of vegetables a year.

Small intensive gardening efforts have begun as well. Members of the Cambridge Food Co-op have been cultivating one-half acre garden collectively. "We supply the Co-op with some of its corn, peppers, zucchini, and beans. We're planting on state land, which we've gotten from the Department of Agriculture," says George Mokray, a Co-op member interested in new food technologies.

"I'm looking for a place to start a solar greenhouse," Mokray says, "a place for growing vegetables all year, heated by solar energy, and with a good storage capacity. We'd run it through the Co-op. People from the South End Garden Project are looking into the same thing."

And in Northampton, a "Communal Canning Center" has been started on a collective, non-profit basis to provide individuals and other collectives with technology to preserve produce through the winter. In line with state food policy, the Massachusetts Local Initiative Program is funding the Center; the MLIP is the source of funding for the South End Garden Project as well.

"There's no question but that these measures can have a powerful economic impact," says Mel King, who represents South End and Lower Roxbury in the State House and was instrumental in starting the South End Garden Project. King emphasizes that urban gardening has political as well as economic significance.



David Krathwohl

Mel King says urban gardens can have "a powerful economic impact."

"It frees food, fertilizer and petroleum for people in other parts of the world who need it more than we do. We've got to get into composting, waste recycling and producing our own topsoil. We've got to use agriculture to create jobs. You can't understand these things in isolation. You've got to see the interconnections, make things build on one another. Sewage, composting, erosion, jobs — these things are related.

"You've got to deal with the political issues: be careful that new zoning proposals promoting agricultural land use aren't, effectively, ways of keeping people of color out of a community.

"Because gardening — reclaiming ugly wasted land in the city — is the only process now open to people who want to make the city work. It's just about the only thing left. There's been no positive leadership here for ten years. Look at the schools — they're typical of the problem. Politics here have been conflict-oriented. Land reclamation is the only area where the mayor's been positive. And even this has to be put through the bureaucratic process, and entrusted to people without vision.

"Well, we welcome the city's help, but we can't wait. The people have to go ahead and do. This city has turned off more people. The gardens are a chance to turn things around."

Political realities have, however, militated against agricultural redevelopment in the past, and they are likely to do so in the future.

The "Land Redevelopment Rights Bill" has not yet been approved, and zoning measures have not been enacted to create Green Belts, largely because commercially developed land brings a higher price than farmland.

The disposition of the Southwest Corridor — a devastated 8.5-mile swath of land cutting through Roxbury, the South End, Jamaica Plain, and other neighborhoods — has not yet been decided.

King and other local activists urge that much of the corridor's land be used for gardens and parks. But proponents of commercial development have argued forcefully and no one knows how much longer the Corridor — the subject of bitter wrangling for more than 15 years — will remain in its incomplete, ravaged state.

Gardeners have the right to use public land for agriculture if it is not otherwise being used, as a result of the 1974 Agriculture and Farming Act co-sponsored by King. According to Susan Child, though, the land on which both the Revival and South End gardens have been cultivated could be reoccupied by the city or the BRA on 30 days' notice.

Ironically, the recession of the past few years has made such reoccupation unlikely — because new construction in Boston is, in most cases, unprofitable — and so the recession is, in a sense, responsible for the current proliferation of urban gardens. But if the economy revives and presumably most Bostonians hope it will — the new gardens could disappear in a new rush of construction. At the very least, the growth in urban gardening could screech to a halt, unless tough political decisions to rezone or subsidize agricultural land are made.

While the \$500,000 going into the Boston Revival Program, and the MILP grants for the South End Garden Project and the Northampton Communal Canning Center represent a considerable monetary commitment, government has nevertheless put relatively little money into agricultural redevelopment — especially when judged against the magnitude of the state's professed goal of eliminating dependency on outside sources of food.

Such promising areas as solar greenhouses, hydroponics and other new technologies, have received very little funding.

And it appears that much of the capital lavished on the Revival Program and much of the enthusiasm of the gardeners who participated in it this summer have been squandered. Not only are the gardens inordinately expensive, but they were virtually all completed months behind schedule. The contracts on some have not yet been closed; coordinators of the gardens say they were so poorly constructed that they must be redone.

Child admits that the methods employed by the Revival Program have been expensive and inefficient, but she says that her hands are tied.

"I've got to follow HUD regulations," she says. "They're unbelievably complicated. They require four dozen signatures every month to process a check. Contractors have to be given out to the lowest bidder. It's very hard to disqualify a contractor for being inefficient." So she says that she might very well go through the same byzantine channels and assign work to the same high-priced, low-performance contracts as this year.

"If we had that half a million to make dollars with the way we did in the South End," King says, "we'd plant the whole city." He suggests that the bureaucratic knot might be cut by creating a community development corporation that could bid for Revival Program contracts — and then employ local residents to plant gardens. A bill enabling the establishment of such corporations is now pending, King says.

Jon Ellertson — who has served both as a paid coordinator for the Revival Gardens and as the volunteer representative of a successful community garden that joined the Revival Program — says that Boston Revival's most pernicious effect has been to raise, and slowly poison, the expectations of local gardeners.

"We'd go to a garden and promise people big improvements if they'd join the program," Ellertson says. "They'd join, and then nothing would happen. People would delay planting because they expected a contractor to come in and clear out their garden and re-landscape it. When they realized the contractor wasn't coming until it was practically too late to plant — they got disgusted."

"It's as if the program were designed to destroy community organization," he continues. "People in local leadership roles stick their necks out and make promises and then can't deliver. . . . As far as our community garden goes, if we had to do it all over again we *wouldn't* join the Revival Program."

For an agricultural revival to succeed here, then, it appears that visionaries, agriculturalists, political activists, planners, and ordinary garden lovers will have to work in concert — and even then it'll be a formidable task.

But at least the conferees at the Herter Center were united in the conviction, expressed by King at the closing of the day's discussions, that "what Boston needs more than anything else today is all the people in this room going out and getting the people of Boston on their knees — in that dirt."

Gardens

Continued from page
(2)

BOSTON PHOENIX 10/24/76

Breadbasket Boston

They arrive with hoe and spade at the ready, Boston urban gardeners, and spend their extra time tilling city soil for zucchini, tomatoes, lettuce and kale as others spoil the city till with patronage, no-show positions and assorted municipal mischief.

They are not city workers, these gardeners, but they are working for the city by reclaiming for productive purposes land that is vacant and marred.

They are in every neighborhood and their gardens often reflect the traditions of the predominant ethnic populations around them.

In East Boston, certain Italian gardening traditions are apparent as are vegetables associated with the Piedmont, Calabria, Abruzzi and the Sicilian plain.

In Roxbury, the cultivations of small southern farming mix with West Indian, African and European traditions that nurture that community's life.

There are celebrated victory gardens like the one on the western perimeter of the Back Bay Fens. There are unsung but resplendent gardens like the one at Paul Gore and Beecher streets in Jamaica Plain or the one on the grounds of Boston State Hospital where more than 100 people grow their own, whatever their own might be.

The Mayor's Office of Community

Development provides the money for starting up these plots but muscle and sweat keep them going. The vegetables they produce will not help feed more than a few hundred families. But at least some Bostonians will feed their souls with the timeless human occupation of planting, nurturing and reaping.

EDITORIAL POINTS

The day of miracles isn't over. The energy companies offered to turn money into oil.

After hearing critics of the school systems, it's a surprise to learn that so many persons can read and write.

From associating with America, some small nations learn more about handouts than they do about democracy.

A local poet went into a state of frustration. He tried to find words to glorify three days of rain.

Should Uncle Sam speak only to countries which protect human rights, his circle of friends would be good but small.

With worse problems to consider, no one has yet thought about the prospect of cutting grass with a lawn mower pushed by hand.

S.E. News 74
5/22/80 2.8

Urban Gardens Blossom In South End Community

by Lynne Poits
Francisco Velasquez dropped beans into the narrow trenches of his garden at East Brookline and James Streets.

"I used to garden with my father in Puerto Rico," he says. "There we grew corn, sweet potatoes and yucca." Today, Velasquez grows eggplants, tomatoes, cabbage, cucumber, and three varieties of beans in his garden in the shadow of University Hospital and Cathedral Housing.

"I save money because I'm not going places during the day to spend it," Velasquez explains. "A lot of us here are unemployed, and we work in the garden a lot of the day."

Richard Cook was dressed in a white T-shirt, red suspenders and old work pants on April 17 as he worked in the Tent City-Dartmouth garden during the annual spring cleanup. Along with about 200 other gardeners that day, he could hardly take the time to lean on a rake and answer a few questions. It was the first real day of spring, time to get some tools in the earth.

Cook and his fellow gardener, William Duncan, were clearing space for a brick patio in the corner of the garden.

"I have an old concrete checker table and bench," Cook says, "and I've been wanting to put it out at the end of the garden so folks can sit outside on summer evenings and chat and play checkers while they take a break from gardening."

Cook's enthusiasm for his garden is shared by over 400 South End residents who wait each spring to put seeds in the earth of what were once vacant lots of

wind-swept trash and scrawny weeds. The people who transformed those lots into 14 community gardens of blooming irises and marigolds, budding beans and radish tops, say they can hardly wait to start planting all over again each spring.

.....
The South End garden movement began back in the mid 1970s in response to rising food prices (the 1974 recession) and growing

Each garden seems to have a character of its own. The Berkeley Street garden is made up of over 150 families, many of whom are Chinese. Plots are bordered by self-styled fences devised from sticks and strings—wire, stones, old fencing and vines.

Roger Stearns, an artist at the Boston Center for the Arts who grows Victorian roses on his plot at the end of the Berkeley Street garden, says he likes the "invent-

"We have Hispanics and Lebanese, blacks, whites, Arabs, Ukrainians. We have gay people, families, singles, nuns, patients from Solomon Carter Fuller—everybody."

—South End gardener Suzanne Schyroky

neighborhood stability. While the 1960s had been a period of social upheaval, by 1975 political and social crusades were giving way to neighborhood and family life. Meanwhile, people were becoming more concerned about the environment.

At the same time, two groups were coming together who would soon be raking stones and pulling up weeds next to each other. The children of the baby boom were moving to the city, and immigrants from numerous agrarian cultures (Puerto Rico, Haiti, Cape Verde, China), were settling in American cities.

What has emerged is a checkerboard pattern of gardens all over the South End, ranging from single lot parcels like the West Dedham/Shawmut garden to the block-long spread on Berkeley Street.

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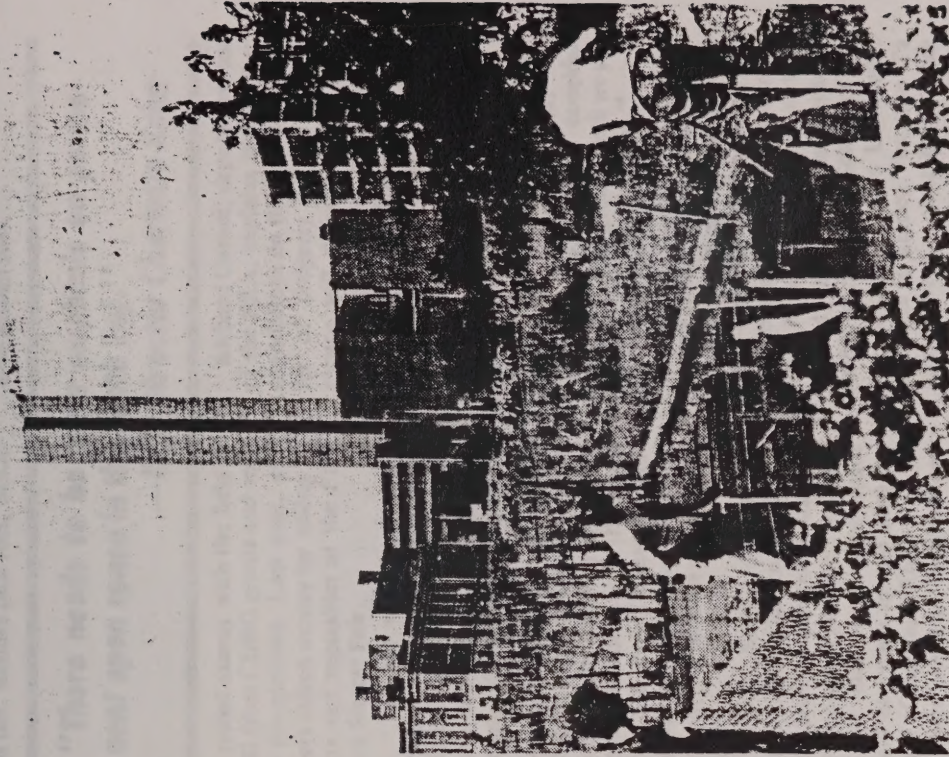


Photo by Read D. Brugger
Gardeners work in the Berkeley Victory garden.

like a neighborhood party." Siefel says that many of the hedge plants were donated by the Arnold Arboretum and that the garden has a limitless supply of excellent fertilizer from the stables at the Boston Police Academy.

The smaller gardens have their individual stamps as well. The East Brookline and James Streets garden has about 15 plots, mostly

gardeners by blacks and Hispanics from Cathedral Housing.

Several elderly people, many Chinese, garden at the small plot at West Dedham Street and Shawmut Avenue. By August, every inch is filled with lush vegetables, many whose names are difficult to pronounce.

The 13 gardeners at Warren Avenue and Clarendon Street

boast a green house, and a communal herb garden of 40 fragrant varieties. Gardener Alfred Smith explained that water drums serve as heat collectors for the garden's small green house.

Suzanne Schyrokij says she thinks the hallmark of the Rutland/Washington/Haven garden, a block area of about 30 plots near the Orange Line, is its ethnic diversity, not its culture.

"We have Hispanics and Lebanese, blacks, whites, Arabs, Ukrainians. We have gay people, families, singles, nuns, patients from Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health—everybody."

That group has built a small cabana with fenced-in areas so one person can babysit all the children while others thin their carrots and radishes.

Gardeners in Lower Roxbury near the street construction on Tremont Street and the Southwest Corridor project found their gardens uncomfortably close to bulldozer teeth this spring. In fact, some plots at the Lenox/Kendall garden were actually torn up. Contractors promised irate gardeners that their earth will be back in order and ready for seedlings by the end of April.

Nevertheless, Lillian Bowens spent an afternoon last week pulling out precious strawberry plants, shaking off the dirt, and delicately wrapping them into envelopes. She will send them to her son whose garden in Texas, she thinks, is less likely to be unsettled by a new sewer or subway system.

The gardens of the South End are informally linked through the services of Boston Urban Gardeners (BUG), which acts as a clearing house for information and assistance. BUG has helped gardeners get top soil, fertilizer, railroad ties

and watering systems, in addition to raising funds and negotiating contracts.

Five of the gardens were started in 1976 as part of a Public Facilities Department project called the Revival Program. These gardens (three in Lower Roxbury and two in the South End) were funded by early Community Development Block Grant money in response to citywide demands for open green space.

In the meantime, numerous neighborhood groups applied to the BRA for use of vacant lots or recently cleared land in their immediate vicinities. These groups joined together in late 1976 to become the South End Garden Project (SEGP). Representatives of the six SEGP gardens meet at the beginning of each season, and periodically throughout the year.

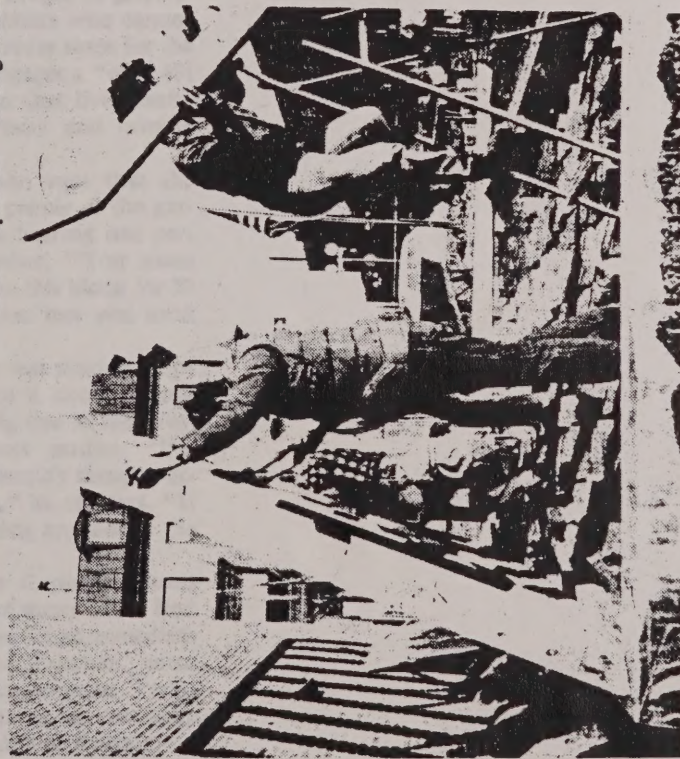


Photo by Read D. Brugger
Neighborhood residents erecting the solar greenhouse that now stands in the Warren/Clarendon community garden.

The remaining three gardens function independently. The Worcester Street and Warren and Clarendon groups both found cleared space and applied to the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) to use it for gardens.

The 15 gardening area in Titus Sparrow Park evolved out of the struggle to save Parcel 19 as an open green area between West Newton and West Rutland Square. Eleanor Strong signs up local residents for the various plots, and the group sponsors a plant swap each year for everyone in the South End to join.

Of course every garden takes materials, time and money. Josh Prokop, treasurer of SEGP, said that at present members of these gardens pay a \$5 plot fee although this is being negotiated in favor of a more equitable arrangement

based on square foot area.

Prokop said money is needed for watering systems (the BRA charges \$50 to turn on and off the water), fertilizer, fencing and railroad ties. Besides plot fees, SEGP

"There needs to be more emphasis on permanent open space in the South End."

—BUG Director Charlotte Kahn

has raised money with the help of BUG from CDBG grants and various foundations. Last year, gardeners raised money by selling T-shirts and vegetables at the Pilot Block Street Fair.

Despite the many community gardens in the South End, some believe that there is a shortage of open space in the neighborhood.

While the National Recreation Association recommends ten acres of green space for every one thousand people, the ratio in the South End is 1.4 acres for every thousand—one of the lowest ratios of open space to number of people in the city.

Charlotte Kahn, director of Boston Urban Gardeners (BUG), a non-profit organization that assists community gardeners throughout the city, says open space should become a special issue for people of the South End.

"There needs to be more emphasis on permanent open space in the South End," she says. "This community has always been concerned with matters of housing, but open space is necessary for a healthy and stable community, especially for young children and senior citizens. This should be made a separate matter of special concern."

Last winter the Boston Natural Areas Fund (BNAF) opened nego-

tiations with the BRA to assist six South End Garden groups in obtaining either ownership or long term lease of their garden sites. The BRA owns all 14 South End garden sites.

Richard Garver, deputy director of the BRA, explains that further negotiations on the possible transfer of property to the garden groups will depend on the progress of the sale of the Serenac/Newcastle plot in Lower Roxbury. He says the BRA is only considering that sale at present, and that the price "will not be very low or market value."

"We have contacted the group and we are waiting to hear," he says, "but we will not consider selling to other groups until we see how this first sale develops."

South End gardeners are as diverse a group as the plants they grow—and the reasons people give for donning old dungarees and a straw hat every spring vary widely.

Trudy Duff of East Berkeley Street teaches in the School of Social Work at Boston University. She likes to garden "because it's nice to have a place to go after dinner in the summer and putter around." Duff grows mostly flowers. "I'm trying to build up a garden of perennials," she says, "and so far I have holyhocks, baby-breath, poppies, zenias and coral-bells. But different people do different things. For example, the lady next to me grows plants that will feed and attract birds. Other people grow the things they want

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Gardens

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to eat."

Loma Lou Jackson says she gardens to have the foods she loves: collard greens, kohlrabi, cabbage, beets, okra and corn. In the same garden, Barbara Hoffmann, who works for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, reports with a sigh and a laugh that she gardens "because it keeps me sane."

Estelle Wade says she grows enough food in her garden at Windsor and Warwick to give vegetables to neighbors who cannot get out, and to freeze some for the winter. Wade engages a "mini 4H crew of children that live nearby to keep them busy and helping too."

Cynthia Wilson says that she enjoys meeting people at the garden. She recalls hearing one person say to another, "You mean you have lived on this block for 20 years and I never met you until now?"

Rufus Parrot was putting tulips and daffodils in a circle around the base of a big tree in the West Springfield Street garden. "I'm just trying to beautify things a little around here," he explains. "It just beats hanging around on the street."

Sister Magee Cappelli echoed the sentiments of many South End gardeners. "There is an immediate sense of accomplishment when you garden," she explains, "even if it's just making an ordinary heap of dirt ready for planting."

And as Charlotte Kahn observed, "The gardens are the country for many people. The gardens are peaceful. They have a spiritual quality. You can stand in the middle of them and see the sky."

South End News

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FREE

Garden Ownership Negotiations Begin

by Lynne Potts
Boston Urban Gardeners (BUG) announced last week that negotiations are underway to secure some of the South End Community Garden as sites for permanent, locally-owned garden projects. The Boston Natural Areas Fund (BNAF) has approached the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) to discuss the purchase of six of the 15 garden sites now used in the South End and Lower Roxbury.

In 1976, the BRA conducted the Urban Wilds Study, which deemed approximately 2,000 acres of land valuable as part of Boston's "natural" heritage. The Boston Conservation Commission then created the BNAF to raise funds and negotiate the purchase of various publicly and privately owned sites of urban wetlands, marshes, rock outcroppings, etc., to be preserved for Boston residents.

While the South End is one of the most densely populated areas

of the city, it had no areas designated as "urban wilds." Under pressure from community gardeners, the BNAF decided to include the community gardens as a neighborhood resource for open space and natural preserve. The BNAF then offered to negotiate a sale price with the BRA and make the sites available to local groups for ownership. The BRA owns all 15 South End garden sites.

A series of meetings has been scheduled so that neighborhood residents can be informed and consulted about the possible sale of property and so community gardeners can discuss the sale with BNAF officials.

The price to local groups will be open to negotiation, as well as whether the BNAF will purchase individual sites and lease them to garden groups or assist in the form of loans so that groups can purchase the plots themselves.

There are between 300 and 400 families who presently garden in

community sites in the South End and Lower Roxbury. The East Berkeley site alone has 150 plots; the Worcester-Claremont gardens has 70. Although only six of the 15 South End gardens are in the present round of discussions, the BRA has indicated that all the sites may be considered later.

Don Richardson of BNAF said his group is trying to "work with neighborhood organizations to help them purchase land so it can be held specifically for the purpose of gardening." The sale, he explained, would occur under a "restricted deed" with an explicit agreement that the non-profit garden group would use the land only "for the purpose of community gardening." "The BRA," Richardson explained, "sits on short (continued on page 20)



South End residents plant ornamental trees at Worcester-Claremont garden during BUG Harvest Festival.
(Photo by Read D. Brugger)

Gardens

(Continued from page 1)

term agreements." The purchase of the individual sites would guarantee that community groups could hold the land without threats of alternative use or development.

The non-profit BNAF, according to Richardson, has "a history and tradition of people who are interested in neighborhood gardens and passive green space." It is funded by private foundations and interested individuals who wish to support community gardens.

Julia Brown, president of South End Gardens Project, an organization that coordinates various South End gardens, said she is in favor of gardeners buying the land. "There were two proposals discussed," she reported. "One to lease the land [from the BNAF] for 99 years, and one to buy it ourselves. It would be a better plan to buy it. This way the gardeners would have more control over the land."

Brown has gardened for six years and said she has not bought vegetables for five. "It is a good way to save on food bills, and a good way to get value," she said.

Josh Prokop, treasurer of South End Gardens Project, said the function of the organization is to help coordinate the community gardens, and to help secure supplies such as fencing, soil, and railroad ties. Prokop, who gardens at the Saranac and Newcastle site, said an important feature of gardening was getting to know neighbors. "I lived here four years without knowing anyone outside my immediate housing before I got my garden plot. Now I have a

sense of neighborhood, and I feel safe too."

Bill Mendes, BRA project coordinator for the South End, said the BRA is anxious to know the response of community gardeners and neighborhood people to the idea of the proposed sale. "Nothing has been decided yet," he reported. "We have to talk to the people first." Mendes said he feels the gardens have made an important contribution to neighborhood life in the South End. He added that people are inquiring about the possible sale, asking how much it might cost them, and why purchase may be preferable to leasing.

Boston Urban Gardeners (BUG) works with gardeners city-wide, and has acted as a facilitator in the negotiations between the gardeners, the BNAF, and the BRA. The organization began as a group of volunteers and became incorporated in 1977. Their funding comes from a number of private foundations, from Community Development Block Grants, and from contracts with various agencies to provide information and materials. Their purpose, according to Director Charlotte Kahn, is to encourage urban gardening projects throughout the city, especially in low-income neighborhoods where residents can most directly benefit from growing their own food and reclaiming otherwise idle land.

Kahn, who is directly involved with South End garden groups, said the South End can use more open space, explaining that "this is a particularly beneficial kind of space because it brings diverse groups of people together in a community project." A South End resident for many years, Kahn recalls that land now used for gardens was once weedy and

full of garbage and trash. These vacant lands used to be a "health hazard and a blight to the neighborhood," she said.

Both the National Recreation Association and Urban Land Institute recommend that there be about 10 acres of open space per 1000 people in urban areas. Boston, in the 1976 Regional Open Space Plan, adopted a standard of five acres per 1000. According to the 1970 census data, there are only 1.47 acres of open space per 1000 people in the South End.

Gardeners also can provide considerable savings. A garden can save anywhere from \$50 to \$700 in a season's grocery bills. In the South End, 80 to 90 percent of the gardeners are low- or fixed-income people.

Worcester Gardens Wins Award

The Worcester Street Community Garden in the South End recently won the Massachusetts Horticultural Award for the best community garden in the state. Joan Siesel, a West Springfield Street resident, accepted the award at a Horticultural Hall reception on September 24. "Our garden won because the judges were impressed with the effort we've made on our own, with almost no financial backing," Siesel said. "Individual people, not government or big business, donated time and money to plant bushes, spread gravel in the pathways, transport railroad ties, and keep common areas free of weeds, trash, and cans."

In a recent study for BUG, researchers found that the gardens were particularly beneficial to the elderly, since with gardens, elderly people not only have more control over food costs, but get physical exercise, and enjoy contact with their neighbors.

According to the report, in many cases the people who use the gardens do not speak English. The gardens provide them with a link to their past (many are from countries where agriculture is an integral part of daily life), and a link with their new neighbors. The study also noted that many low-income families rarely travel outside the city. The people look to "the gardens as an opportunity to "be in the country."

At the garden's annual harvest party held on Saturday, September 27 at 755 Tremont Street, jubilant gardeners thanked Siesel for her efforts in contacting Horticultural Society officials and showing them the garden. "I always knew we were great," said one gardener at the celebration, "but now we have an award to prove it."

At the party, Dorothy Fordham was elected the new president of the Worcester Street gardens. Also elected to positions were: Martin Davis and Ethel Braumont as vice-presidents, Loamlou Jackson as treasurer, and Aileen Thompson as secretary.

The South End Garden Project, Inc. (SEGP) began its first week with a series of meetings and community garden tours at least the residents of South Enders regarding the kind of produce of various urban gardens. In these meetings held near the neighborhood, Bill Howko and others from the SEGP learned the needs of the area and the kind of produce that would be most useful.

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Howko Provides Grapes For South Enders

Joseph Howko, the 86 year old South Ender profiled in the August 8 issue of the *South End News*, is providing grape vine scions to people in the area who want to promote urban gardening.

For a donation of \$2 or more to the South End Garden Project, Inc., Howko will provide rooted cuttings of two varieties of white Concord grapes. The South End Garden Project will insure that the cuttings reach gardeners at the proper time for planting next spring.

Grape leaves and fruit are used in a variety of ethnic cooking, and properly pruned, will remain compact and bear fruit about three to four years after being put in the ground. Howko recommends that gardeners seek a sunny area for the grapes, and he points out that grapes can do surprisingly well, even in the tiny backyards of most South End houses. Or local residents can follow Howko's example by planting an extra vine or two in an alley or a vacant lot.

Checks should be made out to Grapes, South End Garden Project, Inc., 4 Haven Street, Boston, Mass. 02118.

Residents Favor Garden Purchase

by Lynne Potts

The Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) began hearings last week with neighborhood groups and community gardeners to learn the sentiments of South Enders regarding the lease or purchase of various urban gardens. In three meetings held near the various garden sites, Bill Mendes and Maria Faria of the BRA listened to the wishes of community people interested in the issues.

The BRA is presently negotiating with the Boston Natural Areas Fund (BNAF) for the sale of six of the 15 garden sites presently owned by the BRA.

The purpose of the meetings was to allow South End residents to express opinions both for and against the use of these "green spaces" as permanent garden sites. The BNAF would act as facilitator in the purchase, providing information and funds to garden groups.

In 1976 the BRA conducted a study on urban wilds that cited approximately 2000 acres in the Boston area as land worth preserving as part of Boston's "natural" heritage. The Boston Conservation Commission then created the BNAF to raise funds for the purchase of such lands.

Recently, the BNAF has chosen to help community groups gardening on BRA land to purchase their sites. Before the sale can take place, according to Mendes, the BRA must know the wishes of the community.

Dan Richardson, community outreach assistant of the BNAF, outlined options for the purchase of the garden sites. "Our purpose," he said, "is to help you keep your neighborhood green. We are here to help make the purchase possible if you want to have the sites."

While exact prices have not been discussed yet, Richardson pointed out a precedent that leads BNAF to believe the price could be around 10 to 12 cents per square foot. The groups would purchase with a "restricted deed" in which taxes would be minimal. There is also a precedent that garden groups acting as non-profit organizations can receive tax abatements.

Dan Roble of the Dartmouth Place Block Associations, representing 12 to 15 families who garden at the Clarendon-Warren site, said his garden group had met twice recently to discuss the issue. All were in favor of purchasing the community garden. "We have so few green spaces," Roble said, "it seems reasonable that a line be

portant that the space (a 15,000 square foot plot) be preserved as garden space."

The six Dartmouth Place gardeners who attended the meeting said they had built a greenhouse on the site this year. They hope to use it with three water barrels as passive solar collectors to grow Chinese vegetables this winter. In the spring they will use it for seedlings. Roble said there had also been discussion about making the green house available to a science class at the Mackey School.

Mendes said he had received a phone call from Clarendon Street resident Elliot Jacobson who opposed the garden and hoped to see development instead. But there was no opposition at the meeting, and the group took a unanimous vote to proceed with negotiations for purchase of the site.

Mary Langley spoke for the Tenants Development Corporation (TDC) at the meeting on West Springfield Street. She reported that around 20 families (including TDC residents and two neighbors) have plots in the West Springfield community garden. All are in favor of purchasing the site. "We could always use more plots," she said. "There are always people waiting."

Tom Monroe expressed concern that his own plot, and a neighboring plot now used by "Square" Johnson would be left undefined by the sale to TDC. While the question of the Johnson lot was left to be resolved later with the BRA, Monroe agreed to join the TDC in their decision to buy.

"We'd rather buy," Langley said, when presented with the op-

tion of a long-term lease from the BNAF. "The Board of TDC wants the garden for green space, and this way TDC could own it and be sure. The tenants are willing to pay for water."

Michael Robertson, a tenant on Shawmut Avenue came to the Springfield meeting late. He said he had come because he had begun to clear a vacant lot of trash next door (not part of the TDC site, but adjacent). "I started clearing it out because I'd like a garden. Some other tenants in the building said they'd be interested too, so I came to find out more."

A third meeting, held in the Roxse High Rise on Tremont Street, included members of four other South End-Lower Roxbury garden sites: Lenox-Kendall Garden, Barnes Memorial Park, Lower Roxbury Senior Citizens Vegetable Garden, and United Neighbors of Lower Roxbury Community Garden.

Approximately 30 people, many of whom were elderly, attended and all spoke in favor of making the gardens permanent. Three coordinators, Julia Brown, Patricia Kennedy, and Estelle Wade all said their groups wished to keep the gardens. Most preferred to buy if the purchase price and taxes would be affordable.

At the end of the meeting, Mendes declared that it appeared the group was unanimous in wanting to keep the gardens. Someone in the back of the room called out: "Resoundingly."

Richardson pointed out to all groups that the BNAF was there to "help" the groups to make the

(continued on page 16)

purchase. "We are here to show groups that we are willing to share, but each group should raise money toward the purchase to show their own interest in preserving the land as green space in the neighborhood." While he pointed out that there was not a good deal of difference between purchase and a long-term lease from the BNAF, he said both should be considered as possibilities.

Charlotte Kahn, president of Boston Urban Gardeners (BUG), attended all three meetings. "We hope that since there was no opposition at meetings we can assume there is none—or none that anyone wishes to voice openly," she said. She added that the meetings themselves indicated the way the gardens have brought neighbors together in a project they enjoy and that is beneficial both to themselves and to the well-being of the neighborhood in general.

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How Safe Are Urban Gardens?

To the Editor:

I have read with interest Lynne Potts' two articles on the South End's urban gardens and recent plans to purchase the land for permanent garden plots. I am surprised, however, that no one appears to have raised the issue of possible health hazards on at least some of the existing sites.

I refer particularly to hazards from lead and other substances in the soil, stemming from automobile emissions, especially in such locations as the 150 plots along East Berkeley Street and those on other busy streets.

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I don't want to raise the alarm unnecessarily and I am not a health professional or a soil chemist. But as an environmentalist of sorts, I am aware of some recent studies on soil pollution due to roadside lead fallout. It is increasingly being recognized that airborne and roadside lead pollution is a health hazard substantially more serious than the famous lead paint problem identified a few years ago.

Studies of roadside lead contamination suggest that in urban areas such pollution can be traced from 50 to 200 feet from the edge of the road. The contamination from roadway lead at 25 feet from the road's edge can range up to 63 percent of the lead contaminant on the surface of the road itself. That would hit a lot of South End garden plots.

Studies of roadside and aerosol lead on particular plants suggest that whereas root crops (potatoes, radishes) can be *relatively* safe when eaten, greenstuffs such as beet tops, turnip tops, cabbage and leaf lettuce may remain poisonous even after careful washing.

I should be more comfortable with the plans to purchase land for garden plots if the articles had contained some evidence that either Boston Urban Gardeners or the BRA had examined the matter of lead hazard and had tested the sites for possible contamination. To neglect to do so, while at the

same time claiming to advance the welfare of the poor and elderly who must depend on urban vegetable gardening to supplement their diets, would be a very grave and irresponsible breach of the public trust.

I know that all of us in the South End are breathing air regularly polluted by contaminants from suburbanite automobiles racing through (or, increasingly, parking on) our streets, but few of us have to *eat* the pollutants as well. It would seem to me that, after testing, it would become clear that such sites as East Berkeley Street might better be turned into climate-controlled and air-filtered medium-rise elderly housing, with part of the money from the sale of the land earmarked for rooftop greenhouses or the purchase of plots for gardening in safer areas.

In the meantime, as a community concerned about the health of all our citizens, we might take several steps to reduce the amount of air pollution in the area: (1) supporting the efforts of several neighborhood associations to obtain resident sticker parking in order to prevent the South End from continuing as the free suburbanite parking lot it now is, (2) further reducing cross-town commuter traffic within the South End, (3) insisting that major events in the Cyclorama which bring in large numbers of outsiders provide shuttle busses from parking garages outside the neighborhood, as some have already started to do, and (4) absolutely opposing the current move to substitute diesel-spewing busses for the light-rail vehicles previously demanded by the South End as replacement transportation along Washington Street when the Orange Line elevated is taken down in 1983 or thereafter.

—William A. Koelsch

**The South End
News welcomes let-
ters from our readers.
Please address all cor-
respondence to:
SOUTH END NEWS
1515 Washington St.
Boston, MA 02118**

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BUG Answers Questions About Garden Safety

To the Editor:

William A. Koelsch, in his letter printed in your past issue, makes several points regarding the issue of possible lead contamination in urban gardens. He also asks whether Boston Urban Gardeners, Inc., (BUG), has "examined the matter of lead hazard and tested the sites." Boston Urban Gardeners has been working since 1977 (when members and associates formed the Ad Hoc Task Force on Lead), to understand the effects of lead contamination in the urban environment generally, and to alert city residents to the problem and resolve it on community and backyard gardens.

The Lead Task Force included EPA scientists, Suffolk County Cooperative Extension and Department of Agriculture staff, and urban gardeners. BUG members gathered tons of soil from urban gardens (many of them in the South End) to be used by scientists at the University of Massachusetts Suburban Experiment Station in Waltham to determine whether soil and plants were contaminated. BUG and the Suffolk County Extension Service worked out an agreement with the EPA Laboratory in Lexington for use of their facility to test soil samples for heavy metals contamination. All community gardens were tested, and those few garden groups with high lead levels were advised to use their land for ornamental plants only. Coordinators of gardens with low or moderate lead levels were advised to follow "Good Gardening Practices Where Lead is a Concern," now available in the Suffolk County Extension Service publication "Lead in the Soil: A Gardeners' Handbook." (Suffolk County Extension Service, U Mass Downtown Center, Boston, MA. 02125). In addition, Boston Urban Gardeners has just completed a similar handbook for nationwide distribution under contract to the National Center for Appropriate Technology (P.O. Box 3838, Butte, Montana, 59701). As a result of the work of the Task Force, Suffolk County has the only free soil testing service in the United States. For soil testing instructions, contact the Suffolk County Extension Service at 258.

Scientists from the Extension Service have continued to provide soil testing services for the gardens (which tend to have lower lead levels than surrounding soils

as most garden soils were imported from outside the city). Most soil lead problems stem from old lead paint chips, either scraped from the exterior of older wooden houses before repainting or remaining after demolition. However, as Mr. Koelsch points out, "airborne lead is a health problem identified a few years ago." As we understand it, this is because airborne lead is everywhere, and because humans absorb much greater concentrations of lead through breathing (inhalation) than eating (ingestion). What this means is that whatever the hazard for gardeners, the results are similar for all people who spend much time outdoors in the South End—perhaps worst of all for joggers and for kids playing in parks near heavily trafficked streets. (One extremely important fact to remember when discussing lead is that it most critically affects children under the age of six, whose organs are not fully formed. Adults can tolerate and to some extent "process" some daily exposure to lead.)

Rather than ban outdoor urban activities as hazardous to our health, I would agree with Mr. Koelsch that the solution to airborne lead contamination generally is to reduce traffic, as well as have an informed community. The South End might also join environmental groups in fighting the relaxation of emission control regulations proposed by Reagan.

The solution to the problem of lead in the soil lies, we hope, in the development of Boston Urban Gardeners' large-scale composting facility. This facility (for which we are currently raising funds—all donations tax-deductible and welcome) will provide a relatively low-cost substitute for contaminated backyard, park and garden soils. We are also doing research into "living hedges" to protect gardens from further airborne lead.

While working to inform gardeners about the potential hazards of lead, the groups and people in-

involved in urban agriculture have concluded that the only way to deal with the lead issue is to make gardeners aware of their choices. Most fruiting and root crops are relatively unaffected even by high concentrations of lead in the soil or air. There is also some evidence to suggest that a good diet restricts lead and other heavy metals absorption, and the gardens provide many people with a range of vitamins and minerals not otherwise available.

We cannot say with certainty that urban gardens have not adversely affected any gardener's health, but we have never been alerted to any such incident, despite tests given to the children of long-time backyard gardeners in Cambridge and Somerville who found as much as 1 percent lead in their soil. We certainly urge all gardeners, and in fact all residents of the South End to have their young children's blood tested (at Boston City Hospital).

As regards the East Berkeley Street garden, which is admittedly exposed to exhaust fumes and which Mr. Koelsch emphasized particularly in his letter, it is first of all not one of the gardens now under consideration by the BRA as a permanent site, although the BRA's urban renewal project close-out report slated the Berkeley Street parcel for a 50/50 split between housing and gardens. Last year, the garden's coordinator, Anna Taft, and BUG worked with a class at the Boston Architectural Center to develop a hypothetical garden/housing design for the site. Mr. Koelsch suggests a "medium-rise elderly housing with rooftop greenhouses," which might theoretically work well.

However, under current economic and political circumstances, development on East Berkeley Street would more likely consist of townhouses for fairly high-income owners and their tenants, most of whom would have cars, thereby compounding rather than allevia-

ting Mr. Koelsch's well-founded environmental concerns. Rooftop greenhouses would also most likely prohibit access to the site by gardeners from the Castle Square development and other parts of the South End. One of the great strengths of the East Berkeley Street garden in particular, with its 150 plots, is that it brings together gardeners from every pocket of South End life. Rather than closing the garden gates, it would be far more productive for the South End as a whole to join Mr. Koelsch in support of his excellent recommendations for reducing current levels of airborne pollutants and to support the creation of permanent, productive green spaces protected from heavily trafficked streets by careful designs.

If South End News readers have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Boston Urban Gardeners at 267-4825.

*Charlotte Kahn
Director*

Visitors Applaud Gardens

To the editor:

When we visited our son this summer, we noticed an improvement in the community gardens. We have been visiting the South End from Pennsylvania for the past six or seven years and we were pleased to see those vacant lots transformed into beautiful gardens. Not only do they produce fresh vegetables to eat, but they also get the people out to meet their neighbors, making it a much more friendly neighborhood.

Isn't this what life is all about—working together and using all the resources available to help mankind. Keep up the good work!

Dick and Helen Winegardner

newton, purchased the building and subsequently awarded the management contract for running the hotel to Koala Inns of America, according to Barbara Stanley, assistant director of sales and marketing for Koala.

The new operators plan "several million dollars worth of renovations" to the hotel's interior, noted Stanley, adding that she expects work to begin on the facility within three months. The hotel's name will be changed, she said, to reflect its new Koala affiliation.

"Bringing the hotel up to Koala Inns' standards" will take about one year to complete and will result in a building with approximately 300 guest rooms, the largest of all the Koala Inns, according to Stanley.

Though half of Koala's 12 Inns are located in Massachusetts and the company has its headquarters in Post Office Square, the former Bradford represents their first property in Boston. "We've wanted a location in Boston for a long time," remarked Stanley. We've heard such upbeat reports about the theater district and we're excited to be in the thick of it."

Nevertheless, she adds, "we will not be a \$100 per night hotel. Our comfortable surroundings, our inn philosophy and our lower prices will provide an alternative which is not currently available in Boston."

As for the recently-established Bradford Theatre Center, Stanley said the Cabaret Theatre will continue operating "for the time being" under the ownership of the Cohen family. The future of the top floor's Crown Theatre, she stated, will be determined pending recommendations of Koala's architect.

The South End

The Boston Realty Group, Inc. in honor of their formation and the opening of their new realty office, is making a donation of \$1,500 in matching funds to the Blackstone-Franklin Square Neighborhood Association (BFSNA) for the beautification of their neighborhood. The new office of The Boston Realty Group will be located on Newbury Street and the owners include the Simon Boyle Group, Grace Ruth Hatch, Doug White and Tim Harrington. They believe this donation is highly appropriate and that it symbolizes the linkage of the Back Bay and South End. They plan to be active in both neighborhoods.

The Boston Realty Group announced this gift donation today at their champagne reception. Grace Hatch commented, "Hopefully this will encourage other businesses to lend a hand and contribute to the beauty and enrichment of their neighborhood."

Recently, the BFSNA agreed to work together with the South End Garden Project (SEGP) to acquire a Victorian gazebo to be placed in the largest of the neighborhood gardens at the corner of Rutland and Washington Streets. Pending approval from the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) and the acceptance of the loan of a gazebo by the SEGP, this is the probable use of the gift.

Angel Rodríguez, president of the SEGP, said he would be happy to accept the loan of a gazebo and "to work with the BFSNA to help make our organizations stronger by helping each other."

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The Shandy, a Victorian gazebo, drawn by Charlie Wilton for Bow House, Inc. in Bolton Ma. The gazebo is currently under consideration by BFSNA and SEGP for the Washington-Rutland Street garden.

Parking proponents, gardeners clash over space provisions

By Thor Jourgensen

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) and Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) officials this week considered requests to provide off-street parking for two organizations located near the new Massachusetts Avenue "T" station. Those requests, however, are meeting resistance from local gardeners, who say that the parking will be added at the expense of open space.

MBTA spokesman Joe Connor said that the agencies hope to provide 20 spaces for Tenants Development Corporation (TDC) on a small plot of land between Northampton Street and the Carter School, and 34 spaces for United South End/Lower Roxbury Corporation (UDC) between the Carter School and Columbus Avenue. The parking would be built on land owned by the BRA and bordered by the bikepath, community gardens and open space originally planned for the section of the Southwest Corridor between Mass Ave. station and the school.

TDC wants to construct parking for tenants who will live in a housing complex that TDC has received tentative approval to construct at 395-397 Mass Ave., while UDC hopes to provide space for customers traveling to offices and shops that UDC intends to construct on the corner of Mass Ave and Columbus Avenue next year. Representatives for both organizations said their requests represent the minimum needs for their projects.

"We have tried to come up with a plan that is sensitive to the needs of the people working on the Southwest Corridor and yet addresses the definite need for parking around here," UDC president Val Hyman said.

But local gardeners like Tremont Street resident Josh Prokop believe that the parking will not only reduce the amount of parkland bordering the Southwest Corridor behind Mass Ave station but set a precedent for reductions in open space along other sections of the Corridor.

"If they start doing it here who knows what they

are going to do down the line," Prokop said referring to the parkland which stretches from the South End, through Roxbury Crossing to Jamaica Plain.

Parking Concerns

When they met last Monday with South End residents, UDC and TDC representatives said they hoped to build 75 spaces on the land while preserving the open space and bikepath. Although the MBTA hopes to scale that number down to 54, some residents had concerns about the proposal's effect on local residential parking. One man said that TDC residents and UDC customers might shun the off street parking for a space closer their destination. However TDC executive director Carole Quinerly said that tenants will be probably charged for their spaces -- a policy, she said, that would encourage them to use the off street spaces.

Claremont Neighborhood Association chairwoman Betsy Johnson suggested that modifications in the city's parking policies could be made to ease any problems associated with the proposal. She said that UDC's need for more customer parking could be addressed by allowing customers to park in resident permit spaces in daytime hours.

Although residents like Johnson and Prokop want assurances from the T that the parkland and bikepath running along the Corridor to the Mass Ave. station will not be encroached upon by the parking, Northampton resident Mildred Wright does not object to parking bordering her garden plot between Camden Street and Northampton.

"I don't want to give up my little space but I don't mind sharing," she said.

If the city and state this week finalize the number of spaces along the Corridor they will provide for TDC and UDC, the two organizations must decide on an ownership and management arrangement for the parking. BRA officials must make a review of the final design for the lots, which in turn must be approved by the BRA Board.

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MBTA dumps parking lot; Go ahead given to park

By Thor Jourgensen

The MBTA has shelved plans to allow South End developers to build a 50 to 70 car parking lot on land between Columbus Avenue and the Carter School and instead will proceed with plans to build a park and bike path in the block-long area.

The MBTA and city officials in meetings with South End residents over the last two weeks attempted to preserve land for the park area bordering the Southwest Corridor while setting aside some space to meet the parkings needs of the Tenants Development Corporation and United South End/Lower Roxbury Development Corporation. These developers have received initial approval from the city to develop housing and office retail projects in the block of Massachusetts Avenue between the Corridor and Columbus.

While the developers maintained that they needed the parking to meet state off-street parking requirements and to augment nearby public transit lines that would be used by their prospective customers and tenants, residents called the plans a threat to Corridor parkland designs.

"It seemed to us to go back on all agreements," West Brookline resident Eleanor Strong said, noting that residents involved in the design of the Corridor rejected a parking plan adjacent to the Corridor eight years ago.

Mass Ave resident Elsbeth Knott said the parking lot might pose a hazard to Carter School children and added that lights from vehicles would shine into her home. (See related letter on page 6.)

Tenants Development executive director Carole Quinerly and United South End/Lower Roxbury president Val Hyman would not comment on the MBTA's decision or the resident's concerns.

"We'll do our best to support them," Strong said, "but without the parking."

Under the park design, the MBTA also plans to install a water source for community gardens and lighting in the park area.

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Residents reject proposed parking lots

The following letter was addressed to Mr. Stephen Coyle, Executive Director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority. A copy was submitted to the South End News.

Dear Mr. Coyle:

As taxpayers, property owners and abutters to the TDC and UDC proposed parking lots between Northampton Street and the Carter School and between Carter School and Columbus Avenue, respectively, we vehemently oppose this proposal. We are joined in our opposition by parents and staff of the Carter School, MDC Commissioner William Gary, Public Facilities, and the majority of Massachusetts and Columbus Avenue's abutters as evidenced by the vote at the Section One Neighborhood Committee Meeting on December 5. We find the taking of parkland for parking lots completely objectionable for several reasons.

First, the taking of proposed parkland for parking lots sets a serious precedent

about which every resident of the city of Boston should be concerned. The reduction of planned and well-designed parkland that has already been approved by the neighborhood residents poses a threat to any open space in any neighborhood in Boston. The taking of parkland for parking lots not only affects the quality of life in our neighborhood, it also reduces the quality of life of every Boston resident. Importantly, if this parkland is taken for parking lots, Commissioner Gary has stated that the MDC, which is responsible for maintaining and patrolling the parkland, will pull out.

Secondly, the redesign of this parkland to create parking lots totally abhors the continuity of the already designed pedestrian walkways and bike trails that run the length of the 50 acre parkland/Southwest Corridor Project. The UDC and TDC proposed parking lots require a redesign of the already designed and approved parkland. Incidentally, the cost of this redesign and the parties who would bear this expense have not been

revealed.

Thirdly, it is the owner-occupants of any neighborhood who provide neighborhood stability and who work for neighborhood improvements. Those of us who own and occupy property adjacent to these proposed parking lots unanimously oppose the UDC-TDC proposal. We have worked hard to own and maintain our property and to secure basic city services for our neighborhood that have not been delivered in the past. We continue to spend many hours each week trying to get the city to provide city services which are still absent in this neighborhood. Due to our efforts, we have partial street lighting, regular trash pickup and we will be getting South End and Back Bay neighborhood resident parking within three weeks. However, we have much to left to do. The UDC-TDC proposed parking lots so severely affects our quality of life, safety and security, and the economic value of our property, that such a proposal is a disincentive in seeking to improve our neighborhood.

Fourthly, this parking lot proposal raises many safety issues for the handicapped and nonhandicapped children who attend the Carter School, as well as for neighborhood residents. Due to the two parking lots that already exist near the Carter School, a moderate amount of traffic passes through this area. Tripling the amount of parking around the Carter School, as the UDC and TDC proposed parking lots would, also triples the amount of traffic thereby presenting serious safety threats to the school children, many of whom are handicapped. Also, placing two more parking lots directly adjacent to properties which are strictly residential poses security risks to every neighborhood resident. While UDC is somewhat of an unknown quantity to neighborhood residents, TDC is not. TDC's maintenance and supervision track record in this neighborhood is extremely poor. Judging from the past, neighborhood residents have absolutely no reason to believe that these proposed parking lots

(Continued on page 14)

Parkland—

(Continued from page 6)

would be adequately patrolled to insure the safety and security of the residential abutters.

Fifth, no area of the city is better served by public transportation than the Massachusetts Square area. Two major MBTA bus routes, 1 and 43, as well as two major MBTA bus lines, the Orange and Arborway Green, have stops and stations located within five feet to two blocks of the TDC proposed residential development at 395-397 and 400-402 Massachusetts Avenue and the UDC proposed commercial development at 569-573 Columbus Avenue and 426-428 Massachusetts Avenue. Providing commercial tenants with a parking space only discourages the use of public transportation, thereby contributing to the already serious traffic problems faced by the city of Boston. Rather than giving these tenants a parking space, UDC may want to consider giving its tenants a T-pass.

TDC, on the other hand, already has sufficient off-street parking if they would only utilize it. Currently, TDC owns eight buildings consisting of approximately 40 units located between 401 and 427 Massachusetts Avenue. The land behind each of these buildings measures approximately 22 feet wide by 40 feet deep. These oversized backyards could each provide parking for two to three cars and still be left with outdoor space measuring 22 feet wide by 25 feet deep. Accordingly, parking for four to six could be easily accommodated for the proposed ten units at 399-397 Massachusetts Avenue. Concerning the TDC proposed 48 units plus a 2,000 square foot restaurant at 400-402 Massa-

chusetts Avenue, if rear underground parking is not part of the design, TDC should consider a redesign of that project before it considers taking parkland 2 blocks away for parking lot. The vacant lots 400-402 Massachusetts Avenue are over 95 feet deep and grade well below street level. Seemingly, underground or at least parking behind the proposed buildings is possible and certainly preferable. If not, the building of 48 units plus restaurant should be questioned and challenged.

Sixth, the UDC-TDC proposed parking lots lack realism. Anyon living in the city knows it is unrealistic to seriously expect tenants to use parking located two blocks away. In reality, these commercial and residential tenants will park on Massachusetts and Columbus Avenues and Wellington Street while the parking lots are underutilized.

Seventh, before UDC and TDC propose taking parkland for parking lots, each organization has an obligation to, first of all, document a definite need for these two parking lots and secondly, fully investigate constructive alternatives. Some of these alternatives might include parking behind each of the proposed development, underground parking, or, as a last resort, building parking facilities that retain the architectural integrity of the area at 422-428 Massachusetts Avenues or Parcel 6. Neither of these vacant lots is proposed, designed or approved parkland.

Finally, the process of dealing with the community concerning this proposal has been seriously flawed. Notice of meetings has been inadequate and both UDC and TDC's presentations have been ill-prepared and very short

on facts. It appears to us that perhaps developers have been designated for each of these three large projects who simply can't meet the requirements. However, UDC's and TDC's

apparent inability to meet the financing requirements for these projects should not permit them to take parkland for parking lots.

We request that the proposed designed and approved parkland

be designated as such and that the UDC-TDC proposed parking lots be denied.

Sandra Holtzman
Elsbeth Knott

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MBTA dumps parking lot; Go ahead given to park

By Thor Jourgensen

The MBTA has shelved plans to allow South End developers to build a 50 to 70 car parking lot on land between Columbus Avenue and the Carter School and instead will proceed with plans to build a park and bike path in the block-long area.

The MBTA and city officials in meetings with South End residents over the last two weeks attempted to preserve land for the park area bordering the Southwest Corridor while setting aside some space to meet the parkings needs of the Tenants Development Corporation and United South End/Lower Roxbury Development Corporation. These developers have received initial approval from the city to develop housing and office retail projects in the block of Massachusetts Avenue between the Corridor and Columbus.

While the developers maintained that they needed the parking to meet state off-street parking requirements and to augment nearby public transit lines that would be used by their prospective customers and tenants, residents called the plans a threat to Corridor parkland designs.

"It seemed to us to go back on all agreements," West Brookline resident Eleanor Strong said, noting that residents involved in the design of the Corridor rejected a parking plan adjacent to the Corridor eight years ago.

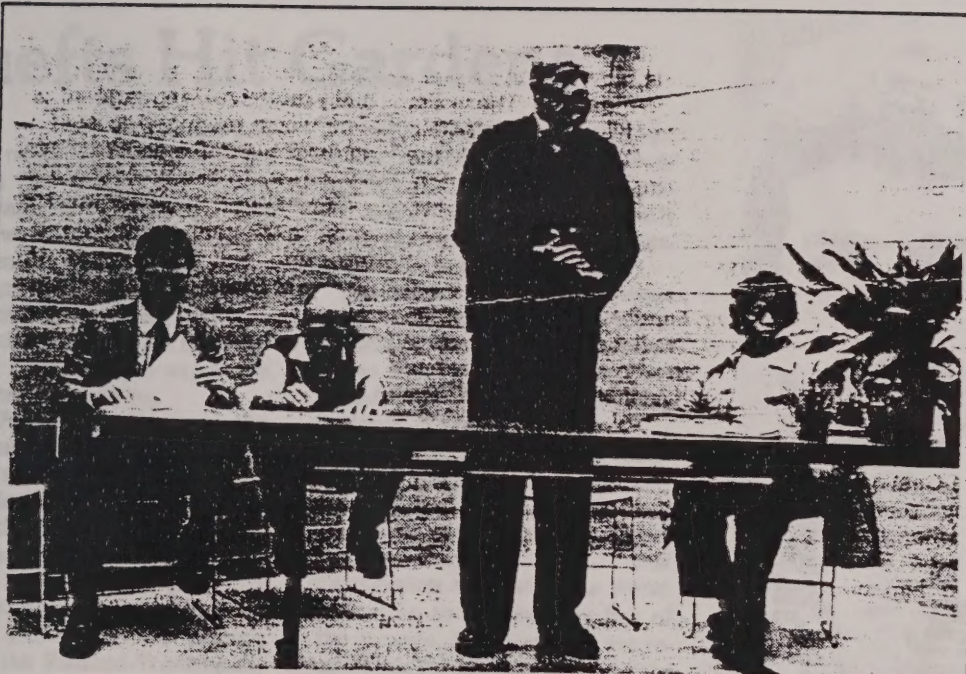
Mass Ave resident Elsbeth Knott said the parking lot might pose a hazard to Carter School children and added that lights from vehicles would shine into her home. (See related letter on page 6.)

Tenants Development executive director Carole Quinerly and United South End/ Lower Roxbury president Val Hyman would not comment on the MBTA's decision or the resident's concerns.

"We'll do our best to support them," Strong said, "but without the parking."

Under the park design, the MBTA also plans to install a water source for community gardens and lighting in the park area.

South End News, March 20, 1986



Seed Talk

Chairing a recent meeting of the South End Garden Project are, from left to right, Fritz Winegardner, Jon Perry, Mel King and Julia Brown. The theme of the gathering was "10 Years of Community Gardening: Protecting Neighborhood Open Space." Refreshments, free seed packets, garden maps, a slide show and a plant raffle were featured. For information about the Project, call 266-6438 or 267-4128. (Photo by Linda Haas)

Gardeners organize to save open space

Thefts Hit Gardens

by Lynne Potts

As a result of vandalism that occurred last winter, five South End community gardens were without water last week.

Gardeners at the Rutland-Washington garden climbed down a manhole in the street and discovered that several pipes that carry water from the city supply to the garden were missing.

Josh Prokop, treasurer of the South End Gardens Project, said gardeners from several sites had called him to complain that although they had paid their bills before the season, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission had not turned on the water.

After hearing of the missing pipes at the Rutland-Washington garden, Prokop investigated the manhole at the Harrison-West Dedham site and discovered missing pipes and valves there.

Joseph Foley, meters manager at the Boston Water and Sewer Commission, said that seven water supply sites have reportedly been vandalized in Bay Village, the South End, and Roxbury.

Expensive valves and meters had been removed from the pipes, he said. "We are talking about pieces that could cost \$200, and would only bring about \$10 in a junkyard," Foley said.

The Water and Sewer Commission will be responsible for repairing the damaged property, according to Boston Urban Gardeners Director Charlotte Kahn. "The Commission maintains the water system up to the property line of the gardens, and gardeners are responsible for the equipment in the gardens," she said.

Kahn added that the Commission may use locks and less expensive materials in the future.

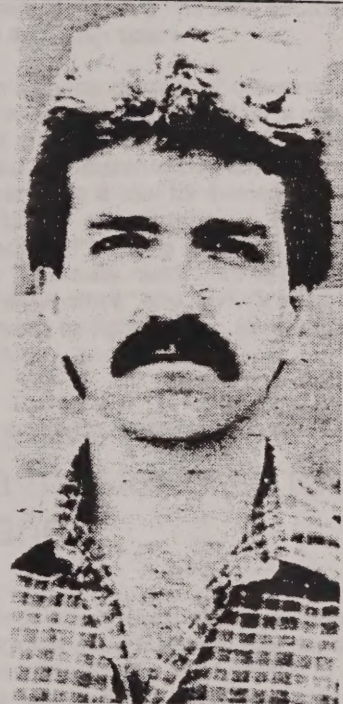


Photo by Ann McQueen
South End Gardens Project
Treasurer Josh Prokop

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Gardeners organize to save open space

by J. G. Stalvey

Local gardeners began meeting this week to plot strategies for defending several of the area's prime garden spots, which they say may be gobbled up by the Boston Redevelopment Authority's (BRA) proposed South End Housing Initiative (SENHI).

Eleanor Strong, of the South End Garden Project, said the meeting at Villa Victoria drew about 40 gardeners from throughout the South End. The gardeners decided to circulate several petitions expressing the group's concerns to the BRA and to "to rally support for the gardens," Strong said. She said that the group, which she described as an "ad hoc group," may ask for a meeting with the BRA in conjunction with supportive members of local neighborhood associations.

building housing, but he said that is not true. Kahn agreed that there were other sites that were suitable for the Chinatown proposal. Kahn said the BRA gave designation for an unused parcel in Chinatown to a developer who plans to build market-rate housing on the site. "Here we are squabbling," she said, "and Chinatown could have had both affordable housing and open space."

Kahn said the gardeners' concerns are another indication of the need for a master plan for undeveloped South End land. Kahn said a comprehensive land use plan would serve as a tool for seeing that the needs of all constituencies, including gardeners and housing advocates, would be met. "We really don't want to be pitted against each other," she said, "it's not like we're trying to fight for the gardeners in isolation."

"...the gardeners' concerns are another indication of the need for a master plan for undeveloped South End land."

The group also drafted a letter to the BRA and to Mayor Raymond L. Flynn demanding that the BRA include garden space in all the property developments under SENHI "and leave all existing gardens as is."

Strong said gardeners have not been encouraged by the authority's recent decision to designate the South Cove garden, a 10-year-old plot between Bay Village and Chinatown, to a developer who plans to build low-income housing on the site.

A Bay Village group has filed suit charging that the planned building violates local height ordinances. John Giangregorio, president of the Bay Village Neighborhood Association, said the BRA "always wanted to build" on the site, despite neighborhood support for keeping the area as open space. "It's what's going to happen to all the green space," he said. "[The BRA] doesn't value open space."

Charlotte Kahn, of Boston Urban Gardeners, concurred with Giangregorio's assessment of where open space falls on the BRA's priority list. "They occasionally say a few words about [open space]," she said, "but I don't think they take it all that seriously."

The authority, according to Giangregorio, said that the site is the only one close to Chinatown that is suitable for

Strong said that the gardeners recognize the need for affordable housing but added "there are a lot of parcels to put housing on, but it's hard to relocate gardens."

At the BRA's June 28 unveiling of the SENHI plan at the Charles A. Mackey Middle School, Strong said, the authority said it would seek input from gardeners. "We want to be part of the process," she said, "we're just taking them at their word."

She said the agency's decision on the South Cove plot may have resulted from not having looked very hard for other locations for the housing proposal. "Maybe the South Cove thing was an example of them not knowing that there was something they could do" to save the gardens, she said.

Strong said the South End gardens were set aside by the BRA under the same no-guarantee arrangements as the South Cove plot. "According to their thinking, it's a temporary use of the land," she said.

The group is hoping that the authority recognizes how gardeners have made what otherwise would have been empty lots into useful space, Strong said. Gardens "bring people together to do something constructive," and gardeners have, by their efforts to clear and plant lots, saved the authority a good deal of money in maintenance costs, according to Strong.

5.25.2019

Almost 27 percent of the open land that the BRA is going to sell off under the SENHI program is community gardens. That's a sizeable chunk of the now available open space in the neighborhoods that could disappear in a matter of months. Many people besides gardeners ought to be concerned about the fate of the gardens. People worried about parking

We'll send you a notice when the next meeting is, probably at the end of September. Meanwhile, keep talking to other people about our goal, keep those signatures coming in, and call with your suggestions. We all need each other's help!

Eleanor Strong
President
South End Garden Project, Inc.

Re-planting needed

IT IS not mean-spirited but necessary for South End residents to oppose Mayor Ray Flynn's plan to erect a 101-unit "Tree of Life" shelter for battered and/or homeless women and their children on Washington Street.

They maintain — and we agree — that their neighborhood has habitually been singled out as the location of any number of vital public facilities of one sort or another.

They can point to nearly two dozen halfway houses, the Pine Street Inn, Rosie's Place, thousands of units of subsidized housing, and two hospitals (complete with drug clinics and mental health wards).

They fear — we suspect rightly — that the South End will soon be the site for a waste disposal plant and a new Suffolk County House of Correction. Their "community garden" is slated to pass from the scene so that elderly housing can be erected there.

They believe the people of the South End have made

room for far more than their fair share of service and social welfare buildings, sometimes without being given a voice in the decision. They think that this time City Hall should look elsewhere, even for as worthy a purpose as providing secure shelter for abused mothers and their young.

And if one thinks about that, about fairness and community input, they have a very good and valid point.

Another point. The location of shelters for battered women is, sensibly, not widely publicized — for the very sound reason that this information tells the batterer where he'd be likely to find his bruised and terrified target. On that ground, try as one might, it's all but impossible to justify the construction of such a large and obvious facility.

Flynn would be wise, we think, to re-think and change his decision. A building of that scope with a sign on the lawn isn't the way to protect women who need that kind of shelter.

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letters

Gardeners should fight to preserve open space

Dear Fellow Gardeners:

On October 1, a rainbow delegation of gardeners met with BRA officials at their invitation in their offices at City Hall to talk about the fate of the South End/Lower Roxbury community gardens under the SENHI program, which will determine the development of the remaining BRA-owned property in the area.

Each of the garden sites was mentioned and some were talked about in detail. Gardeners tried to make several important points:

1) We should be trying to preserve all the gardens even though most of the SENHI program "recommendations" are to take them away or make them much smaller, to provide housing. Each community garden grew up where it did for a good reason -- it serves the local folks who live right nearby in large housing units, who don't have a lot of money, and for whom the garden is in many cases their only real option for enjoying open space. Developers talk a lot about "affordable housing"; we are talking about AFFORDABLE FOOD! We need housing, there's no question, but you have only to take a walk through the South End to see

how much housing is simply boarded up. Shouldn't this housing be fixed before we take away people's gardens?

2) You can't move community gardens around. If you get rid of one garden, you lose most of the folks who gardened there and can't get out to a site further away. Some of the gardens already have ingredients that make them great community open spaces. At Worcester Street, for example, there's parking for Concord Housing, a lot for the kids, and a shaded sitting area for the elders, all in addition to the community garden. City planners should be thinking of moving the developers around first, before they start clearing out the gardeners.

3) Gardeners told BRA officials they disagreed with a major recommendation of the SENHI planners to "privatize" the gardens by hiding them behind buildings or in courtyards (a BRA recommendation explained in their booklet "Proposed Reuses for SENHI Parcels" published and distributed to community groups in September.) Nobody wants to feel like he or she is gardening under somebody else's kitchen window. To "privatize" the gardens defeats the main goal of having a truly community garden. Instead, garden sites need to be big enough and visible

enough to say to everyone who gardens, or lives or works nearby: "This is *your* neighborhood garden."

One objection the BRA raised was that not all the garden sites look cleaned up, some have weeds growing in them and around the edges. Gardeners pointed out that not knowing year to year what the BRA's plans were -- whether we'd even have a garden next year -- makes people uncertain whether they should put in that much more effort and money to make a garden site perfect. Also, the chainlink fences around most gardens go right down to the ground, where the weeds and especially the mugwort get tangled in the links and are next to impossible to pull out completely. If we had permanent gardens and tall, solid, wrought iron fences with a six inch space at the bottom and sidewalks that extended a few inches underneath, we could easily get weeds out, keep the edges of gardens cleaner and planted with flowers.

Gardeners felt that this meeting was a good start on talking with the BRA. We have 10 years of experience improving their land, after all, and we know lots of things about what makes gardens work and prosper that they don't, so it is a good sign that they may have begun to realize

that we've been working on their behalf as well as our own for over a decade now.

It looks as if both the BRA and the City will start working with the community through a series of meetings at the Tubman House. Each garden should elect at least three representatives to attend future meetings through the winter, so that if someone can't be there on a specific night, your garden will be sure to be represented. When you sign the attendance sheet at those meetings, put "Gardener" next to your name, so people know we are all there to stand up for what we have worked so hard to develop over the years.

Also, we've collected something over 350 signatures on our petitions so far but we need lots more! Gardeners in Charlestown, for example, worked for a year and collected over 2,300 signatures, and they are still having trouble making their point to the BRA! We did get many endorsements at the recent Pilot Block Street Fair and there are many people who don't garden but do support us.

We raised about \$78 at our vegetable and plant table at the Pilot Block Street Fair. Thanks to all of you who donated extra produce from your gardens. But the treasury is very low. South End Garden Project needs money to go on keeping people informed about what's happening to community gardens in the neighborhoods. We need new ideas for fundraising. And right now, we need emergency donations from each garden site! We're already using recycled envelopes and paper for our printings and mailings, but each time we send a mailing in an envelope, it costs us nearly \$50 for postage and another \$45 for printing. The treasury is running out of money! If you or your garden can make a donation (or if you need additional petition sheets), please call me at 262-6438.

Gardeners dig in vs. bulldozers

Vow to stop building project

By JOE BATTENFELD

A GROUP of neighborhood gardeners plan to stage a last-ditch effort this morning to stop bulldozers from leveling their community garden in the South End.

Dozens of residents who grow vegetables and flowers on the small plot of land off Tremont Street were planning to meet last night to decide how to save the garden, which has won numerous national awards since its inception in 1977.

"We hope the people's presence will give them a second chance to think about it," Bruce Steeves, president of South Cove Community Gardens, Inc., said yesterday.

The garden, near the South Cove housing project in the Bay Village section of Boston, has been threatened with extinction several times in the last six years.

Neighborhood residents have beaten back several attempts from the city and developers to build on the property.

Last week, however, the Boston Redevelopment Authority completed the sale of the garden plot to the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, which plans to build a 20-unit, low-income housing project there.

A groundbreaking for the project is scheduled for Thursday, and residents say the garden will be razed this morning.

"They (the developers) want to remove any semblance of a garden being there before the mayor and governor come down here (for the groundbreaking)," Steeves said.

Residents say they still have hope the project can be stopped through legal action.

"It's very imprudent for someone to start a project they might not complete," Steeves said.

Despite their planned demonstration, some gardeners went out in the rain yesterday to try to salvage their plants in preparation for the expected razing today.

Several other Boston gardening associations were also planning to show up at the South Cove garden early tomorrow morning before the bulldozers arrive.

"It's really a dirty deal," said Eleanor Strong, president of the South End Gardening Project, Inc. "We're probably going to be faced with pretty much the same fate if we don't get mobilized."

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Gardeners crop up to halt bulldozers

By L. KIM TAN

A GROUP of Bay Village neighborhood gardeners won a small battle yesterday when they staved off bulldozers from leveling their community garden to make way for a low-income housing project.

But the gardeners may have lost their war against the owners of the small plot of land off Tremont Street when their attorney later failed to convince a Suffolk Superior Court judge to issue a temporary restraining order to stop construction on the site.

In a hastily arranged conference with attorneys involved in the dispute late yesterday, Judge Thomas Morse agreed to hold a hearing tomorrow to hear further arguments from the parties.

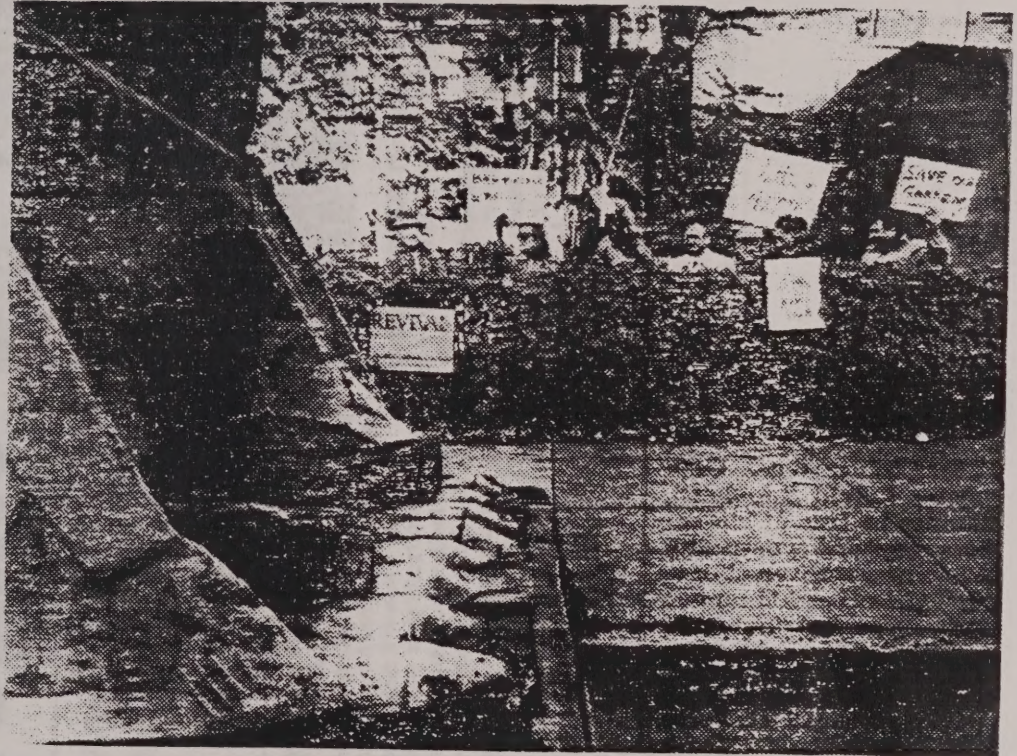
But the judge would not order a halt to construction on the land owned by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, the association's attorney, Stephen Nolan, said last night.

"They made some allegations today that vibrations from the construction could harm the abutters (to the land). They are seeking a review, but I don't think they'll have much success in that," he said. "We plan to continue construction tomorrow."

Yesterday's court meeting capped a day of protests by about 20 members of the Bay Village Neighborhood Association, who are vehemently opposed to the construction of a \$2.2 million, 3 1/2-story apartment complex that would house 20 low-income families.

Armed with picket signs blaming the dispute on

halt bulldozers



SEEDS OF PROTEST: The front end of a bulldozer sits idle yesterday at the South Cove community garden as protesters rally to save the garden.

Staff photo by Curtis Ackerman

Mayor Ray Flynn and the Boston Redevelopment Authority, which recently sold the land to the developers, the residents blocked the John B. Cruz Construction Co. crew from bringing in its bulldozers.

One of the signs said the dispute "would not have happened in South Boston"

— Flynn's neighborhood. Another said, "Save our lettuce, save our beans, help us squash the Flynn Machine."

"It's come to a head as much as it could have," said Joe Edwards, one of the protesters. "If (the court) decides that we are right, there's going to be too much to be undone."

John Masone, project director for the construction company, said his firm was losing \$450 an hour on labor and equipment costs as a result of the stand-off, which began about 7 a.m.

"(The gardeners) say it's the garden, but I think it's

more than that. I think they don't want low-income housing here," he said. "We'll be back at 7:30 (this morning) to start work."

Davis Woo, president of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, said he was "disgusted" by the gardeners' action.

"We have been trying to be as fair to everybody as we can and we've waited so that the growing season is over with," he said. "It's just another slam against the Chinese community."

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Gardeners uprooted; project work begins

By L. KIM TAN

WORKERS began bulldozing a South Cove community garden yesterday to make way for low-income housing, sweeping away the lingering protests of gardeners who had farmed there for nearly a decade.

Despite the protests — and despite a civil suit challenging the legality of the \$2.2 million project to provide housing for 20 low-income families at the site — the controversial operation got underway about 10 a.m. when a bulldozing crew went to work.

About a dozen Bay Village residents, who have farmed the small plot of land off Tremont Street since 1977 and who have won several awards in horticulture, watched as the bulldozer leveled mounds of earth that once

‘I’m bitter against Mayor Ray, Flynn and the Boston Redevelopment Authority.’

— Frank Shelton,
displaced gardener

were bedecked with flowers and vegetables.

“I’m very bitter against Mayor Ray Flynn and the Boston Redevelopment Authority,” said Frank Shelton, who used to grow tomatoes, peppers and zucchini, but was only able to save his rose bushes.

“They just went right through my garden with that bulldozer and it hurts.”

Like the other members of the Bay Village Neighborhood Association, Shelton insisted Flynn and the BRA were to blame for the

dispute over the project.

The BRA recently sold the land to the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, the developer of the 3 1/2-story project.

But the neighborhood group contends that the project was ill-conceived and has filed suit challenging its legality in court.

The civil suit has yet to be heard in court, attorneys said.

An attorney for the gardeners, Glenn Alberich, said he would argue at a 2 p.m. Suffolk Superior Court hearing tomorrow that construction work would cause damage to abutting buildings, as well as violate the abutting residents’ right-of-way.



Staff photo by Curtis Ackerman

GARDEN WAKE: Gardener Naomi Zide watches as Jose Fuentes and general contractor John B. Cruz rescue her oregano plant.

But Stephen Nolan, an attorney for the developer, said he doubted the court would order a halt to the construction work.

Nolan said the John B. Cruz Construction Co. planned to bring in pile-drivers to begin work on the foundation next week.

Meanwhile, Davis Woo, president of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, said there would be no groundbreak-

ing ceremony — reportedly planned for tomorrow — at the site.

“Let’s just keep going without any more bad feelings,” he said. “Maybe at a more peaceful time ... we may have a little something to show our thanks to the people involved in this.”

Kathleen O'Malley contributed to this report.

BAY VILLAGE

Housing units to uproot communal garden

Despite protests, residents fail to block planned construction of low-income housing

By Doris Sue Wong
Globe Staff

Heads turned as Ann Carroll stomped up and down Jefferson Street in Bay Village yesterday afternoon cursing and shaking her fists at the heaps of dirt where she had tended a garden plot for eight years.

"Horrible," she sputtered.

Despite two days of picketing and several months of legal action, Carroll and other neighborhood residents who want to preserve South Cove Community Gardens as green space were unable to stop the bulldozer from coming in.

The Boston Redevelopment Authority last week sold the 13,480-square-foot site bounded by Jefferson, Church and Tremont streets to the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association. The association, a nonprofit community

group in Chinatown, plans to build 20-units of low-income housing there.

The site had been designated by the BRA as an urban renewal parcel and was leased to residents as a community garden annually since 1976 until a developer could be found. A dispute erupted between Bay Village residents and the benevolent association in 1983, when the association expressed interest in building housing on the site. The dispute, which frequently was acrimonious, took on a fevered pitch this week as construction work on the housing project was scheduled to begin.

Excavation was stalled Monday when construction workers refused to enter the garden where about 60 gardeners staged a protest that lasted about eight hours.

Later that day, Suffolk Superior Court Judge Thomas Morse re-

'Before it was a garden issue, and I think now it's getting to the real issue, which is they just don't want us there. They just don't want low-income housing at that site and they don't want Chinese living out there.'

- Davis Woo

fused to grant the Bay Village residents a temporary restraining order to stop work on the project from beginning until a lawsuit they filed against the association and city and state officials could be heard. The hearing was scheduled to be continued tomorrow.

Glenn Alberich, an attorney for the residents, said he is seeking the temporary restraining order because he believes construction work will cause structural damage to the surrounding buildings and the project will eliminate an existing right of way for residents.

But attorneys for the defendants, noting a restraining order had been denied previously by judges in the Superior and Appeals courts, were doubtful the order would be granted.

"They had two shots at it in court and they lost," said Kevin Morrison, deputy general counsel for the BRA.

Yesterday, the gardeners picketed again for several hours and after a heated exchange with construction workers, relented.

"It seems that people just can't turn it loose," said association president Davis Woo. "I think it's not fair to the community here to continue this kind of demonstration, to delay and hold up construction."

"Before it was a garden issue, and I think now it's getting to the real issue, which is they just don't want us there. They just don't want low-income housing at that site and they don't want Chinese living out there."

But Peggy Montgomery, who has tended a garden at the site for five years, said, "I think that's a cheap shot to discredit our effort to preserve open space."

Gardeners said they planned to picket a groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for tomorrow. But Woo said yesterday he has canceled the ceremony because emotions are running so high.

"I'm certainly not turning tail and saying we're afraid to have it," Woo said. "But I think it would just add fuel to the emotional fire that is going on."

Woo said Chinatown residents, many of whom stay close to the community because of language and cultural barriers, have a severe need for additional low-income housing. He cited instances where two to three families share one apartment because they cannot find affordable housing nearby. He added that four families visited his office yesterday in an attempt to apply for the Tremont Street housing even though it has not been constructed yet.

Woo said the association has explored several sites, but found the garden to be the most economically feasible.

Woo and Morrison both said if construction work is delayed further, it could make the project financially impractical.

The lawsuit filed by Bay Village residents charges, in part, that a 1980 agreement with the BRA that limits any development of the site to a 2½-story building has been violated by the association's plan to erect a four-story structure.

Morrison said the agreement merely set up guidelines and "not absolute requirements."

"The authority has the power under state law to make minor modifications to urban renewal plans, and this is a minor modification," he said.

Boston Globe 11/5/86
P. 34

Bay Village residents fight excavation of local garden

by J. G. Stalvey

Bay Village residents battling the city over the South Cove community garden were scheduled to go to court today seeking an injunction to prevent planned excavation and piledriving work.

The Boston Redevelopment Authority two weeks ago finalized the sale of the 13,000-square-foot plot to the Consolidated Chinese Benevolent Association. The CCBA plans to construct a four-story building called Tremont Village that would provide 20 units of affordable housing.

A member of the Bay Village Neighborhood Association, who requested anonymity, said the group's attorney planned to argue in Suffolk Superior Court that the site preparation work, especially piledriving, poses a threat of structural damage to adjacent homes. He said that homes in the neighborhood suffered damage during similar work on the Howard Johnson's Hotel 57 and during excavation by the MBTA on the Southwest Corridor.

John Giangregorio, president of the Bay Village Neighborhood Association, said he expected the CCBA's attorneys to seek a delay in the trial date while arguing that the site preparation work be allowed to proceed. "There's a feeling that once

construction starts, that weakens our case," he said.

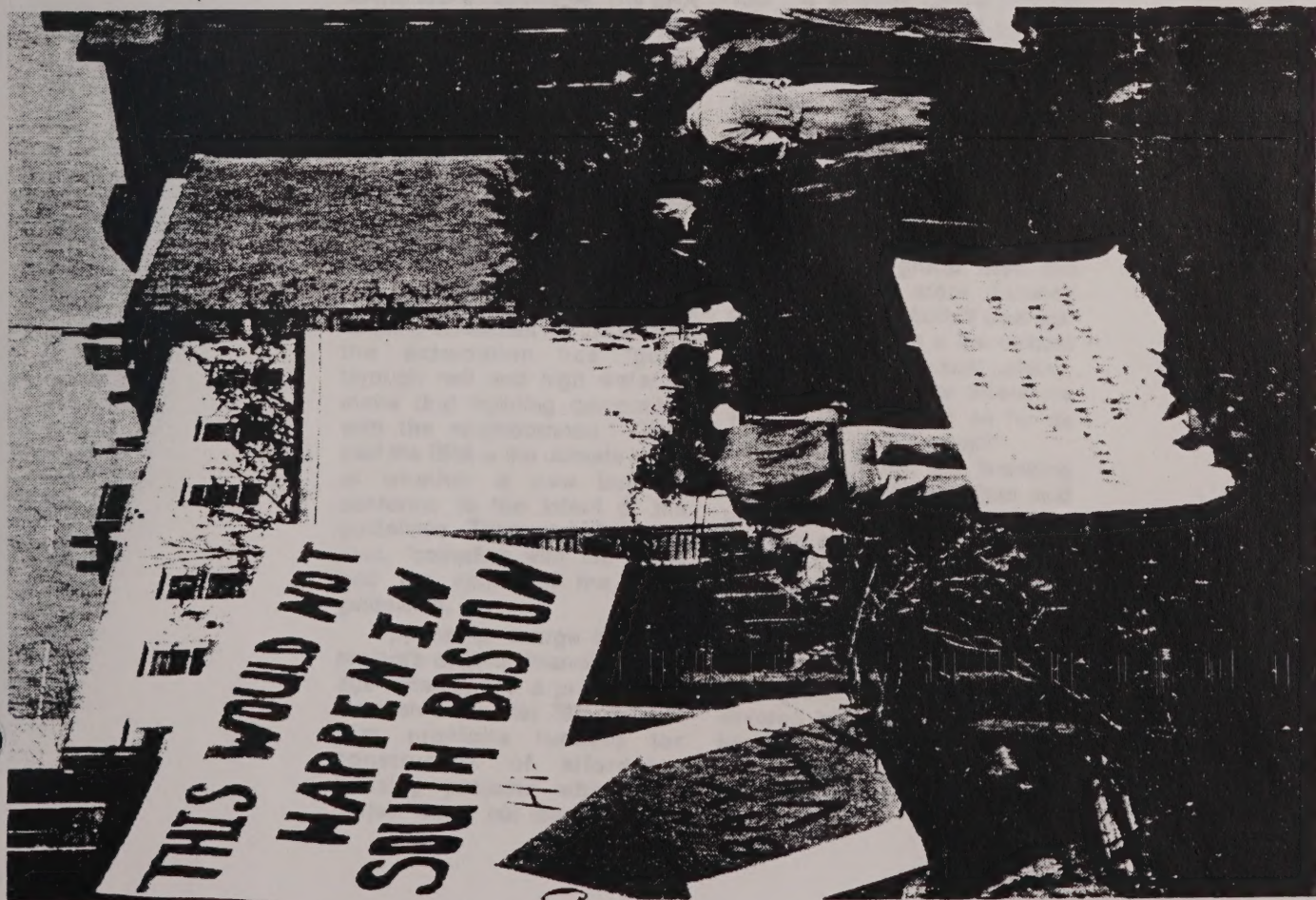
The neighborhood group hopes to push for consideration of a plan that would relocate the housing to nearby Eliot Norton Park and leave the garden intact.

Members of the neighborhood association picketed at the garden early Monday morning and prevented the excavation crews from doing any work. However, at a court hearing that afternoon, residents agreed to allow levelling work, which was done Tuesday. At press time, it was reported that a ceremonial groundbreaking for Tremont Village scheduled for today had been cancelled. Mayor Raymond L. Flynn, who was targeted for criticism by the Monday picketers because of his support for the project, had been expected to be on hand.

Davis Woo, president of the Benevolent Association, said the lawsuit was "nitpicking," and said opponents of the project are "grasping at straws." Woo said the neighborhood group has twice failed to win injunctions to stop the project. "We have legal backing to go ahead with our construction," he said, "and that's what we're going to do."

The neighborhood association and the

(Continued on page 7)



Bay Village residents protest a plan to build housing on the site of their community garden. (Photo by J. G. Stalvey)

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11/6/86

P.1

Next week, the South End News will provide a complete analysis of the 8th Congressional and statewide races, the 8th Suffolk state representative contest, and the ballot questions.

Gardens—

(Continued from page 1)

Bay Village Historic District Commission jointly filed the lawsuit, which alleges that the CCBA's proposal violates design guidelines worked out by residents and the BRA in 1980 and that the project's financing circumvents state laws governing subsidies for affordable housing projects.

The lawsuit contends that the design of the four-story building violates guidelines for the plot, approved by both the mayor and City Council in 1980, limiting the height of any building on the plot to two and a half stories. The BRA has stated that the guidelines, which were incorporated as part of the charter establishing the Bay Village Historic District Commission, are not absolute.

Matheson said the issues raised by the opponent's lawsuit have already been ruled on. "The courts have judged that the BRA hasn't violated any guidelines or financial rules," she said.

According to Paul Chan, a housing consultant for the CCBA, the association has "gone through hell and high water to make that building compatible with the neighborhood." Chan said the BRA is the ultimate judge of whether a new building conforms to the intent of the guidelines. Tremont Village, he said, "complies with the intent and the spirit" of the 1980 guidelines.

Opponents charge that the project's original financing package sidestepped a provision of the state's Chapter 705 program that prohibits funding for construction of affordable housing projects when that project would put the number of

low-income units within an eighth of a mile of the site at more than 100. The CCBA is now planning to pay for the building with a mortgage, under a new program dubbed ACTION, from the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency and then have the state buy the mortgage under a Chapter 705 provision that exempts already constructed buildings from the one-eighth-mile restriction. According to John Giangregorio, the neighborhood association's president, the plan is "a subterfuge for not being able to use [705] money on that site."

In addition, Giangregorio said, the EOCD agreed last May to cover all 20 of the units under the Chapter 707 rent subsidy program although the program's rules would allow subsidies for only 12 units. A spokesman for the Executive Office of Community Development (EOCD) told the *Boston Globe* that the rule was "nonsensical," and said the agency expects the rule to be repealed by the state legislature. However, the EOCD, at a court hearing in July, stated that it would not provide 707 money for all 20 units.

According to Chan, the finance issues raised by the neighborhood group miss the point of the state funding programs. "Everybody's goal and objective is to get a low-income person housed," he said, adding, "what does it matter where the subsidy comes from as far as Bay Village is concerned?"

Asserting that the financing was "properly done," Chan said that the issues raised by the project's opponents are murky at best. "If you asked 10 attorneys on these questions," he said, "you may get 10 different answers." As for as the Chapter 707 question, he said, the state has agreed to fund the units not covered by that program under another rental subsidy program if the eighth-mile rule is not repealed before the project is built.

Parks and poverty

The Boston Foundation, an important force behind the influential report on the city's open spaces, "The Greening of Boston," is convinced that improvements in parks can help alleviate poverty. Its \$2.5 million commitment confounds the conventional wisdom about how to intervene in the poverty cycle.

The foundation believes the condition of parks in poorer neighborhoods is a sign of society's regard for the people in those neighborhoods. If the parks are well kept, they can become places where the poor, especially youngsters, make strides toward greater self-esteem. "We can't solve every problem overnight," said assistant director John Ramsey, "but we owe everyone a basic standard of decency in the public spaces of Boston."

"The Greening of Boston," which lays out a blueprint for a revival of the city's parks, gives an important role to private groups. Although most money for improvements must come from local and state government, associations such as the Friends of Franklin Park can be watchdogs over government, corporations can adopt parks, and foundations can be a source of seed money for worthwhile projects.

Together, private groups can set an agenda

that will focus governmental energies in times of fiscal plenty and buffer the parks against neglect when money is tight.

The Boston Foundation is not the only philanthropy concerned with open-space issues. The Cox and Riley foundations have given significant support to the Park Partners program, the Hyams Foundation has sustained the urban-gardening movement, and The Boston Globe Foundation helped set up the Boston Greenspace Alliance.

The Boston Foundation effort is unusual because of the depth of its commitment and because it is part of a \$10 million attack on poverty. Ramsey says that an out-of-town foundation executive, when asked to comment on the program, scoffed at the idea that parks and poverty were connected. The best answer to these doubters comes from Hubie Jones, dean of the Boston University School of Social Work and a participant in the seminars that shaped "The Greening of Boston."

"I grew up poor in the South Bronx," he said. "There were a number of oases that kept me going - schools, the library and beautiful, well-maintained parks. They were an incredible source of hope."

1987

SOUTH END

Zoning code changes focus on parking, housing problems

BRA says plans to be reviewed in community

By Michael K. Frisby
Globe Staff

The Boston Redevelopment Authority is proposing several South End zoning code changes designed to lessen the neighborhood's parking problems, limit condominium conversions, create more public open space and reduce the size of future housing developments.

Linda Bourque, an assistant BRA director, said the zoning proposals result from concerns raised by community residents and problems outlined by a consultant hired to study neighborhood conditions caused by its rapid growth in the past 20 years.

"The objective is to improve the quality of the life in the neighborhood, protect existing housing stock, allow good affordable housing to be developed and cool the speculative market," said Bourque, adding that the proposals will be reviewed extensively with the community.

Moreover, BRA officials said the zoning changes will also help regulate the development boom expected when the MBTA's Orange Line elevated rails are removed and the Washington Street corridor becomes desirable to developers.

The study, conducted by Thomas Planning Services Inc. of Boston, found that many of the area's problems have resulted from the population increase. The number of households increased from 7,676 in 1975 to 13,282 by 1985. And figures showed that while there were only 119 condominium units developed between 1969 and 1979, there were 1,258 between 1980 and 1985.

But the study says the rapid condominium conversions have decreased the amount of available family housing, while fueling speculation in the housing market and causing rents to increase.

"The lack of housing for families is to the detriment of the neighborhood," the study said. "A homogeneous neighborhood of single person or unrelated individual households does not provide for diversity and does not promote social interaction... families with children tend to be less mobile than households without children and, therefore, have a greater interest in maintaining the neighborhood and in establishing social contacts."

To address these and other problems, the BRA proposes that:

- The area be downzoned one level, which would reduce the size and mass of any housing built in the area. Current zoning allows large apartment buildings to be built on some sites.

'The objective is to improve the quality of the life in the neighborhood, protect existing housing stock, allow good affordable housing to be developed and cool the speculative market.'

— Linda Bourque

- The amount of open space in the neighborhood be increased. The area houses 30,000 people who need about 40 acres of open space rather than the existing 4 acres, according to city officials. The BRA plans to hire Boston Urban Gardeners to conduct an open space study.

- The number of parking spaces required for new housing be increased. The new formula will require one space per unit for 1 to 3 units; 1.25 spaces per unit for 4 to 6 units; 1.33 spaces per unit for 7 to 9 units and 1.5 spaces per unit for 10 or more units. The current requirement is .7 spaces per unit.

- Local business districts which cover large areas primarily along Washington Street and Shawmut Avenue, will be reduced to try to put more housing on those streets in the future and also restrict businesses to the needed by the community.

- Trash compactors will be required in residential buildings with more than 10 units. City officials said there is a trash problem that attracts rodents to the neighborhood.

John Riordan, assistant director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, said the zoning changes are an attempt to update an outdated zoning code in line with today's realities.

He said the study would allow the city and residents to address traffic and parking problems, expand open space and allow construction of affordable housing.

The Office of Neighborhood Services, which worked with citizens to bring their concerns to the BRA's attention, is expected to play a role in discussing the changes with community groups. To be adopted, the zoning code changes must be approved by the BRA Board of Directors and the Zoning Commission.

Wide open spaces

BRA postpones development of two community garden sites

The city will let South End gardeners continue farming two local community garden sites that are slated for development, while it waits for a local gardening group to finish its three-month study of the neighborhood's open space needs.

The Boston Redevelopment Authority awarded Boston Urban Gardeners (BUG) \$15,000 last week to do the survey. Meanwhile, the authority has decided not to accept development bids on two of the 12 lots slated for building under the first phase of the South End Neighborhood Housing Initiative (SENH) until the survey is finished.

The parcels affected by the study are P6-A, which lies along Berkeley St. between Washington St. and Shawmut Ave., and P30, a Washington St. lot bounded by Rutland and Haven Sts. The Berkeley lot is, at 47,516 square feet, the largest of the Phase 1 parcels. South End residents currently use both as community gardens.

Eleanor Strong of the South End Garden Project said she was pleased with the BRA's action, because it shows "that the gardens do have a recognized value as open space." Strong said a BRA official told her "not to worry that [parcel 30] wasn't in the RFP because that just meant it wouldn't get fought over by the housing people."

Strong said the South End Garden Project plans to bid for the rights to develop parcel 30 into a permanent garden when the study is finished. She thinks the

group's role in maintaining what was originally a World War II-era victory garden will give it an edge in the bidding. "I think we would have the logical first crack at it," she said, adding that, in the meantime, "we'll just go ahead and garden it as we always have." The group also pushes to get garden space included in development plans for several other SENH parcels, including RE-7B on Washington St. and a cluster of parcels on Northampton St.

The BUG survey

The three-month survey will use census data, such as the number of children, to determine local needs for facilities like tot lots or playgrounds. Area residents will be asked how they use neighborhood parks now, and what suggestions they have for park improvements. BUG will also survey existing garden space and will review other surveys done recently. Resident trips to other open spaces, for example, to the Arboretum, will also be assessed.

BUG's Charlotte Kahn said there seems to be a general idea that local parks are overused. "We'll try to find out if that's true," she said. Kahn said she believes advance planning can help avoid conflicts like last year's struggle over the South Cove community garden, when Bay Village neighbors went to court to try and stop the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association from building low-cost housing on their garden site.

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S.E. News 3/26/87 p.7

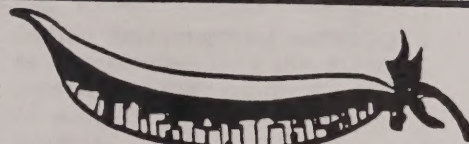
Garden green

The South End Garden Project's annual meeting is scheduled for this Saturday, March 28, at 10 a.m. at the Union Methodist Church at the corner of West Newton St. and Columbus Ave.

All residents interested in community gardens and open space issues are invited to attend the open meeting, especially those who have been or would like to be active in gardening in the South End/Lower Roxbury area and on Section One of the new Southwest Corridor Park. There will be a report on the past year and election of officers, a raffle and door prizes:

To prepare for the new season, last year's gardeners will sign up for plots on Saturday, April 11, at garden sites, weather permitting. New gardeners can sign up for plots on a space-available basis after April 15.

At the annual meeting of the
South End Garden Project, Inc.
the following people were honored:



Mary Snyder – An outstanding public employee

Project coordinator for the MBTA, Selection one of the Southwest Corridor Project, for seven years Mary Snyder has intervened on behalf of the neighborhoods and helped to make permanent community gardens a reality at Saranac/Newcastle – the new Mass. Avenue MBTA station.

We honor Mary for her generous assistance and her steady support of community gardening in the South End and Lower Roxbury.

Donna Maria Ortiz – An outstanding gardener, coordinator, and organizer for the South End Garden Project.

Though now confined to a nursing home and unable to garden, Donna Maria Ortiz will always be remembered for her hard work on behalf of South End Garden Project, her legendary pig roasts for the gardeners at the Rutland/Washington Street community garden, and her aluminum can recycling project.

But we honor Donna Maria Ortiz above all for her spirit, and her willingness to help other people.

**Boston Aging Concerns/Young & Old United, BACYOU
An outstanding community organization.**

As developers of inter-generational shared housing, BACYOU will soon begin renovation of 35 and 36 West Newton Street, and join with South End Garden Project to build permanent community gardens at Rutland/Washington Street.

While working to create and preserve housing at reasonable cost to young and old alike, BACYOU puts into practice the community values that gardeners stand for, too – community pride, self-help, tolerance, and cooperation among neighbors.

We honor BACYOU as welcome partners in community development.

S.E. News
4/2/87 p14

Flynn readying plan to protect open space

Study under way; zoning restriction sought

By Michael K. Frisby
Globe Staff

Mayor Flynn's administration is devising a comprehensive plan to protect city parks, squares and gardens from developers and determine how the land can best serve the public.

The mayor announced on Monday that he will soon propose a zoning restriction that would protect open space, while his aides are preparing a study that will analyze about 280 parks, malls and squares comprising more than 2,000 acres and 30 other urban sites totaling more than 1,000 acres.

"The study being conducted by the city is probably the most comprehensive plan for open space in the last century," said Charlotte Kahn, director of Boston Urban Gardeners.

Mary Nee, director of the city Capital Planning Office, said her office has been working on the study since August after determining that a master plan to upgrade the parklands was needed.

Under the zoning amendment, neighborhood councils, advisory committees and the Boston Conservation Commission would be able to ask the Zoning Commission to designate certain sites as open-space zones. Even a group of 10 or more residents could request the open-space designation.

The amendment, which would have to be adopted by the Boston Redevelopment Authority and the Zoning Commission, would authorize the creation of open-space zones for parks, recreation land, waterfront access land, gardens and cluster residential developments. The amendment would also provide zoning rules for "air rights" to build over highways.

Stephen Coyle, director of the

Boston Redevelopment Authority, said yesterday that the zoning amendment may reduce the scale of some proposed development projects.

For instance, Coyle said developer Alan J. Green is proposing to build 117 condominium units on the Boston side of his development project planned at the site of the former St. Sebastian's School on the Boston-Newton border.

Coyle said that under the zoning amendment, any residential development covering more than 5 acres could be zoned for "cluster residential," which would restrict the project density and require that half the land be left open. He said the project would likely be reduced to about 41 units in Boston. The developer is also planning 113 units in Newton that would not be affected by Boston laws.

The proposed zoning amendment also would require that:

- Fifty percent of any development constructed over transit corridors be open space.

- Any development in shorelands and waterfront access zones be limited to water-based recreation facilities, parks and excursion boat services.

- All publicly owned parks, playgrounds, recreation areas, waterfront areas and urban gardens be protected from development.

Mark Premack, executive director, of the Boston Greenspace Alliance, said that the plan shows a very positive direction by the city. But Premack said the zoning amendment must be applied to be successful.

Premack said many urban gardens in the South End and Roxbury are on land owned by the city or the BRA. He emphasized that the zoning amendment should apply to those properties.

Boston Globe 5/13/87 P.26

Victory of the Green

By Susan Vaughan

Eleanor Strong drives by a housing project in the South End with a courtyard opening out onto the street. There are a few trees in the courtyard but no one's there to enjoy the open space. Strong shakes her head, noting that the land would do more good for people as a community garden.

Strong is the president of the South End Garden Project, an organization dedicated to the maintenance of community gardens and the protection of the lots from development. She, herself, cultivates a plot in a community garden at the corner of Washington and Rutland streets.

Fellow gardener Pauline Rather has the same eye for visualizing vacant lots as community gardens. On a hot summer afternoon she surveys the garden from a white gazebo in the middle. It is divided into many plots; some have flowers, others boast peas, and one is overrun with mint.

In back of Rather is the old elevated Orange Line. Across the street is another vacant lot. "I wish we could get that plot over there," she says.

Rather's plot is small, but she is able to produce plenty of collard greens, tomatoes, white potatoes and lettuce. In the two years she has gardened here she has come to believe gardens are an important part of cities. But the Boston Redevelopment Authority has slated the vacant lot for a housing development.

"I love it. I do. I really do," says Georgette Wallace, a friend of Rather's who also gardens here. "All the nice vegetables you can get out of the garden — you don't have to buy them from a store frozen."

Urban dwellers have planted community gardens ever since cities and industrialization took off in the 18th and 19th centuries, says Sam Bass Warner Jr. in his recently published book on Boston urban gardening *To Dwell is to Garden*.

During times of economic hardship or war, officials permitted residents of many cities to use open space for vegetable gardens. Throughout World War I residents cultivated "war gardens," encouraged by slogans such as "Sow the Seeds of Victory" and "The Kaiser is Canned." The Boston Park Department plowed parts of several parks, including the Boston Common, for gardening during both world wars.

But over the years, says Warner, urban planners failed to incorporate gardens into their development plans. Most community gardens established during wars or depressions were gradually replaced with parks or buildings.

Nobody knows the exact number of cultivated lots in Boston today, says Charlotte Kahn, executive director of Boston Urban Gardeners, because people are continually starting new gardens in vacant lots.

In recent years, some urban gardeners have been pitted against non-profit organizations seeking low-income housing for those lots. Ironically, says Strong, urban gardens really serve lower-income groups.

Rather, a senior citizen, shows off a bag of tomatoes harvested in one day to demonstrate how



PHOTO BY RICHARD FELDMAN

Urban gardener Eileen Williams of Braddock Gardens in Boston's South End tries to keep her plants happy with water during summer's heat.

much the garden saves her on grocery bills.

Another urban gardener in Roxbury is famous in urban gardening circles for keeping track of her garden's earnings. The gardener, Julia Brown, weighs what she harvests and then checks the current supermarket price. She raises "\$500 or \$600 worth of vegetables each year," says Strong.

But the gardens are more than just money savers. At the Fenway Victory Gardens — 400 plots on 7½ acres of the Emerald Necklace along the Muddy River and the only remaining World War II victory gardens — most people plant flowers, vegetables or herbs. But for others, it's their personal backyard. On a cool evening, many people can be seen picnicking in their plot or just sitting and enjoying the view.

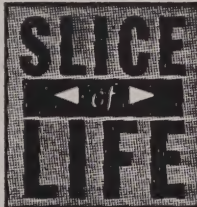
One area, cultivated by disabled people, was started by a blind man, Domingo Hernandez, a Massachusetts College of Art student and a life-long Boston resident. Hernandez worked in a body shop until he lost his sight 20 years ago. Nine years ago he began cultivating a Victory Gardens plot. As people gave up plots around him, he applied to have those plots set aside for handicapped people.

He hopes to "get people involved and make them feel like it's worth living," he says. He is 70, but says, "I feel like I'm 45."

Boston's urban gardens differ from each other in appearance, often bearing the trademark of their cultivators. For example, at the Cathedral Garden in the South End, tended primarily by residents of the Cathedral housing project, clotheslines are strung across the plots and draped with strips of plastic that flutter in the wind and scare away birds.

At the tidy Braddock Gardens, located in a park along the Southwest Corridor in between Huntington Avenue and Tremont Street, each garden is surrounded by a black fence and few have weeds.

The plots in another South End garden on Berkeley Street, cultivated by Chinese immigrants, are separated by uneven wooden stakes, bicycle tire rims and anything else a resourceful mind would use to create a barrier. The gardens' most unusual characteristics are the make-shift trellises covered with squash vines that enclose individual plots.



The TAB 9/1/87 P.14

Plotting greenery use of vacant space

After 10 years,

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Garden greenery

Pauline Rather took time out on a recent sunny afternoon to tend her blossoms in the community garden on Washington St. (Linda Haas photo)

S.E. News 9/3/87 P. 3

Plotting greener use of vacant space

After 10 years, Urban Gardeners growing strong

By Anne Wyman
Globe Staff

On the edge of the Lenox-Camden housing project in Roxbury, near the corner of Melnea Cass Boulevard and Tremont Street, the sun fades on a plot of green.

The plot is one of 100 or more sites begun with the help of Boston Urban Gardeners, which celebrated its 10th anniversary last night with a gala party at the Arnold Arboretum.

Among those invited were Lillian Bowens and Wesley Francis, who have been tilling adjacent plots here for more than a decade. One day last week, in the late afternoon, they sat in a new wooden pavilion surrounded by neatly tilled rows of ripening vegetables.

Both in their 70s, they have known each other since she was 14 and he a bit older. Her family had moved up from North Carolina; his came south from Canada. Speaking gently, their topics of conversation ranged from gardens in Chinatown to urban crowding to population control.

Outside the chain-link fence, adults with children passed men slumped on benches along Tremont Street, halfway between a liquor store and a nightclub. Bowens and Francis now live alone in apartments a block or so from the garden. Both said they do not go out at night.

"It's dangerous out there," Francis said as they prepared to leave.

Coriander harvest

Roughly a mile away at the Southwest Corridor Community Farm, Louis Lopez watched as his older friend Juan Antonio harvested coriander, worth \$2 a bunch in Spanish markets. Lopez said he got the plot two months ago and let Antonio use it this summer. The two men were neighbors in Rio Piedras in the hills of Puerto Rico.

Lopez plans to clean the garden this fall and next spring, and to plant tomatoes and lettuce grown



Lillian Bowens and Wesley Francis chat while they work in their gardens.

Globe staff photo/Suzanne Kreitzberg

from seeds saved this summer.

Garden oases such as these are in nooks and crannies all over the city. They are the work of more than 3,000 gardeners of many ethnic groups — from Charlestown to Mattapan, from East Boston to Brighton — who grow what they know and learn from each other.

Boston Urban Gardeners coordinates and helps with the work, combining political activism with grass-roots ingenuity to find land and clear it, to obtain plants and seeds, to train new gardeners and landscapers, and above all to mesh willpower and back power in the conversion of vacant lots into parcels of peace and production.

"We compare ourselves to an amoeba. It moves in where people need help and pulls back when the work is done,"

Farm Act of 1974

The Massachusetts Gardening and Farm Act of 1974, sponsored by former state Rep. Melvin H. King, allowed gardeners to use vacant state-owned land at no cost. Once approved, the concept was off and running.

The goal was to create self-sustaining community gardens among more than 15,000 vacant house lots burned or abandoned in the 1970s.

Gardeners like Kahn, of the South End, or the organization's president, Edward L. Cooper of Highland Park, wanted people to have a place to grow things to-

'We compare ourselves to an amoeba. It moves in where people need help and pulls back when the work is done.'

— Charlotte Kahn,
urban gardeners director

gether. A place to grow the pride that comes with knowing you can work with others to achieve goals.

"It's not easy to have 20 or 40 or 500 people cooperate on anything," Kahn said. The organization, he said, had always been "a coalition, gaining its strength from local neighborhood groups, sister gardening organizations and government agencies. We couldn't have done it without them."

Working with the city's Department of Capital Planning, Boston Urban Gardeners measured and photographed 50 community gardens as part of the inventory for the mayor's Open Space Plan.

To counter housing pressures, the Urban Gardeners' staff of 10 has worked with the nonprofit Boston Natural Areas Fund and other groups to protect parcels for gardens. The 10-acre plot at the former Boston State Hospital site in Mattapan will soon be safe under an agreement with the state Department of Food and Agricul-

ture. Some community groups have bought their own gardens; Urban Gardeners often helps with the negotiations.

Training program

And cooperation goes further: The organization has a training program at Roxbury Community College, aided by city funding; students from the Harvard School of Design contribute landscaping skills; and a nonprofit farm in New Hampshire produces fresh vegetables for sale at Urban Gardeners farmstands in eight Boston housing projects and distribution at three city food pantries.

Funding for the group now comes from 10 local foundations; the group has contracts with four city agencies; and the organization, which has written a book of its own, is the subject of a new volume by Boston University historian Sam Bass Warner Jr.

The Green Industries Council, a consortium of commercial growers, landscapers and nursery workers, helps the organization find and obtain surplus plants, seeds and fertilizer. One donation was 3,000 chrysanthemums, windburned and unsaleable after a hurricane. Some of those mums were flowering around the fence on Tremont Street.

"I like the fact that the sun shines on this garden all day," said Bowens.

Francis looked on the garden, on his ripening corn and tomatoes, and said: "I wish I knew it was ours. I'd plant a lot more things if I knew it would be here next year."

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Parks, space seen as key to Boston's well-being

By David Arnold
Globe Staff

Despite some near-record cold snaps, Edward Cooper is still harvesting carrots in a vacant Roxbury lot. The 84-year-old resident of Highland Park says the community garden springs him out of bed in the morning.

Cooper envisions converting several abandoned garages nearby into greenhouses so that he can teach schoolchildren year-round — not just in the summer months as he does now — about the potential of seeds and the value of nurturing, patience and maintenance. These qualities, he believes, are too often overshadowed by the concrete and brusqueness of urban life.

It is the dreams and power of resi-

dents such as Cooper that a privately funded report to be released today addresses and hopes to harness. Environmentalists say "The Greening of Boston," a 140-page analysis of the impact of parks and gardens on the quality of life in the city, is so comprehensive that it may guide open-space policy into the next century as studies by Frederick Law Olmsted and Charles Eliot guided the city a century ago.

"The Greening of Boston" is the result of 1½ years of brainstorming at regular meetings by more than 100 city and state officials and leaders of environmental groups, businesses and neighborhood organizations. The report concludes that few city services can boost the quality of life for Boston, and particularly for the

city's poor, better than the restoration of public parks and the preservation of open space.

Robert Hollister, professor of social policy at Tufts University who directed the meetings, said the study calls for reintegrating an estimated 4,400 acres of parks, vacant lots and open space into the city fabric.

"Never before has the parks and open-space issue been so entwined in the definition of urban well-being," he said.

Boston parks hit an all-time low in 1985 as the Parks Department tried to recover from the impact of Proposition 2½. Its \$5.7 million annual budget in 1985 was equivalent to the 1915 budget

— when the department managed about one-third less park land.

To what low estate some parks have fallen was shown in a Globe news story Saturday depicting Peters Park in the South End, which has become a nighttime gathering point for drug pushers and users, prostitutes and muggers.

"The Greening of Boston" was sponsored by the Boston Foundation under the auspices of the Carol R. Goldberg Seminar series that is investigating the relationship of health care, teen-age pregnancy, job training and parks to the poor. The report will be released at this afternoon at the Boston College Boston Citizen Seminar at State Street Bank and Trust at 225 Franklin St.

PARKS, Page 22

Parks, open space seen as key to Boston's well-being

■ PARKS

Continued from Page 19

In 1893, Charles Eliot, a protégé of Olmsted and creator of the the Metropolitan District Commission park system, wrote that "the life history of humanity has proved nothing more clearly than that crowded populations, if they would live in health and happiness, must have space for air, for light, for exercise."

According to some seminar participants, the report goes a step further and suggests that the poorer city residents will be "empowered" if they are included in planning the restoration and development of neighborhood parks and are hired to build and main-

tain them. Other proposals include:

- Better maintenance, safety and activity programs, all of which should be the basic responsibility of the government.

- More involvement of community groups in park planning.

- Zoning laws and planning guidelines that incorporate public open space in Boston's development.

- Activities and park agency staffing that reflect the city's racial and ethnic diversity.

- Recognition of the importance of community gardens in the social fabric of the city.

"Parks?" John Ramsey, assistant director of the Boston Foundation, one of Boston's largest

charitable organizations, recalled asking himself before the first meeting of the seminar series.

"I never would have thought parks and open space could have such potential impact on poverty," he said.

What makes this more than a list of promises, according to Ramsey, is the long-term commitment by the players to monitor progress and \$1.5 million in Boston Foundation grants that will be allocated for programs to facilitate public-private partnerships and organize neighborhood groups.

He and others point to new government initiatives, including Boston's \$99 million capital improvement plan for parks, doubling the Parks Department's budgets and the Legislature's appropriation of \$500 million to preserve open space.

William Coughlin, Boston parks commissioner, says the maintenance and administrative structure of the Parks Department has been restructured so the staff can better respond to complaints and perform basic chores.

"In the next two years, I intend to prove that this city can provide the basics. But in this era of government cutbacks, the private sector will have to find ways to make a space exceptional."

Recent efforts by the private sector, Coughlin noted, include

fountains under construction in Copley Square, the public rotunda and waterfront park at Rows Wharf and the proposed 1.7-acre park for Post Office Square.

"There's no reason the business community can't create an endowment to help such projects through in less affluent times," said Joseph Breitenicher, president of the Beacon Management Co. "Not everyone has to feel they have to leave their money to Harvard."

Seminar participants admit that parks may currently benefit from private dollars because Boston's economy is booming. But this may also be the result of a quirk in demographics, says Robert Weinberg, an independent developer, former director of the Massachusetts Port Authority and president of the Friends of Post Office Square, the private group that is developing a park on the site of a city-owned parking garage.

Boston's middle-income residents, Weinberg believes, basically moved to the suburbs during the past decade, leaving behind a city of rich and poor.

"It's an oversimplification, but you can either afford to live here or you can't afford to leave. The quality of parks is one of the few political issues on which both sides can fervently agree."

South End Study Calls For Increase in Open Public Space

As neighborhood redevelopment continues to accelerate, some South End residents are looking to an in-depth study of the area's open space to guide future planning.

The Boston Urban Gardeners has conducted an extensive assessment of the South End's open space, including its parks, playgrounds, tot lots and community gardens. The study examines conditions of sites and community characteristics such as history, demographics and topography. The study, commissioned by the Boston Redevelopment Authority, includes recommendations for increasing the amount of open space.

"It's a planning tool, not a plan," says Charlotte Kahn, executive director of the Boston Urban Gardeners.

The study, released in draft form last fall, will be reviewed at a community meeting later this month.

A meager amount of open space in the densely populated, one square mile neighborhood is cited. An increase of 10 to 14 acres in open land over the next several years is recommended. The document also notes the need for an increased number of tot lots in the neighborhood, with the large number of child care facilities located in the South End.

According to Kahn, areas that could be tapped for future open space include the South Bay, which the city is planning to revitalize, and above the Massachusetts Turn-

pike, if air rights are obtained by the city.

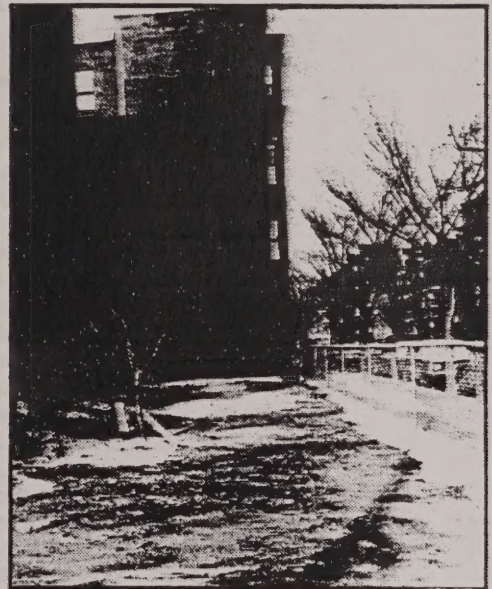
Residents and city officials are anxious to have the document available for use before Phase Two of the South End Neighborhood Housing Initiative gets under way. Under that program, the remaining 70 parcels of BRA-owned land will be designated for future use — for housing, parking or open space.

"We want this to be part of some kind of comprehensive plan," says Betsy Johnson, president of the Claremont Neighborhood Association.

"The real issue is how this fits into the overall development of the South End," says Tom O'Malley, SENHI coordinator for the BRA. He notes approximately 650 units of housing will be built under the SENHI program and an additional 700 units are being built on private land in the neighborhood.

The study recommends renovations and redesign of the South End branch library, and reclaiming for recreational use the Mackey School's paved school yard, now used for teacher parking. In addition, the study calls for the BRA to explore designating for open space use the vacant lot at the corner of Wellington Street and Columbus Avenue and stepping up public use of the South End Burial Ground.

Eleanor Strong, president of the South End Garden Project, says she hopes open space assessment will help preserve some of the



Open space advocates are hoping vacant lots in the South End will be designated for recreational use or gardening.

PHOTO BY PATRICE FLESCH

neighborhood's community gardens. In many cases, the community gardens are on BRA-owned parcels that have never been officially designated as open space.

Strong says there is fear among some gardeners their plots will be lost as the remaining SENHI parcels are developed.

Although some South End residents got their first look at the draft plan last fall, a fine-tuned version will be presented to the community at a February 29 meeting at the Harriet Tubman House at 7 p.m.

— J. Gambon

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GREEN ACRES: Boston Urban Gardeners wants to the city to preserve most of the South End's community gardens, like this one on Harrison Ave. at Plympton St. (Rose Marston photo)

The good earth

Boston Urban Gardeners will present its study of South End open space at a community meeting on Monday, February 29 at the Harriet Tubman House.

The \$15,000 study lists all the open space now existing in the South End and recommends preserving existing parks, playgrounds and gardens, and developing new open spaces. The report specifically recommends preserving most--3.75 acres--of the 4.16 acres of existing community gardens. It also asks the city to clean up and secure existing parks and develop new open space, such as over the Massachusetts Turnpike and in the South Bay.

The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Lincoln House Room. BUG will make copies of the study available and will present a summary of the report's recommendations.

Open question

Boston Urban Gardeners (BUG) wants South Enders to put their thoughts about local open space needs in writing.

BUG presented its South End open space study at a Monday night meeting of some 60 community gardeners and neighborhood activists. The \$15,000 study, prepared at the request of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, recommends that the city preserve 12 BRA-owned open spaces--ten community gardens, Hiscock Park on W. Newton St., and a lot at the corner of Wellington St. and Columbus Ave.

BUG Director Charlotte Kahn described Monday's meeting as "very positive," with substantial support for preserving local community gardens. While some meeting-goers suggested protecting even more open space than BUG recommended, others said residents need a clearer sense of the BRA's development plans in the South End before deciding how much city land should be preserved for gardens, parks and playgrounds.

BUG now plans to collect written comments from residents, and will convene a working group to continue discussing the open space question. The issue will be discussed again at a community meeting

on April 12.

Copies of the study are available from BUG, at 33 Harrison Ave. (located at the corner of Beach St. near the Orange Line's Chinatown stop). Written comments on the study may be sent to BUG, with a copy to Tom O'Malley, the BRA's project manager for the South End Neighborhood Housing Initiative.

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Great gardeners

The South End Garden Project kicked off the 1988 community gardening season last Saturday with its annual meeting and awards presentation. State Rep. **Byron Rushing** was recognized for helping others understand "that community gardeners have earned the right to be heard when the community plans its future." **Lucille King**, a garden coordinator and community leader, "never let us forget that while other groups run meetings according to Robert's Rules, the South End Garden Project runs them according to the Golden Rule." And the **South End/Lower Roxbury Ad Hoc Housing Coalition** was honored for its support of developing both community gardens and affordable housing in the neighborhood. A special award was given to SEGP member **Jon Perry**, as "perhaps the one person

most responsible for the creation and preservation of our neighborhood gardens." Congratulations to all!

Many meetings

South Enders interested in the preservation of local gardens and open space will continue their discussion of the South End Open Space Needs Assessment by Boston Urban Gardeners tonight, April 14, at 7 p.m. at the Harriet Tubman House, 566 Columbus Ave. Meeting participants are expected to try and agree on how much open space should be preserved when the BRA launches the second phase of its effort.

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Briefs

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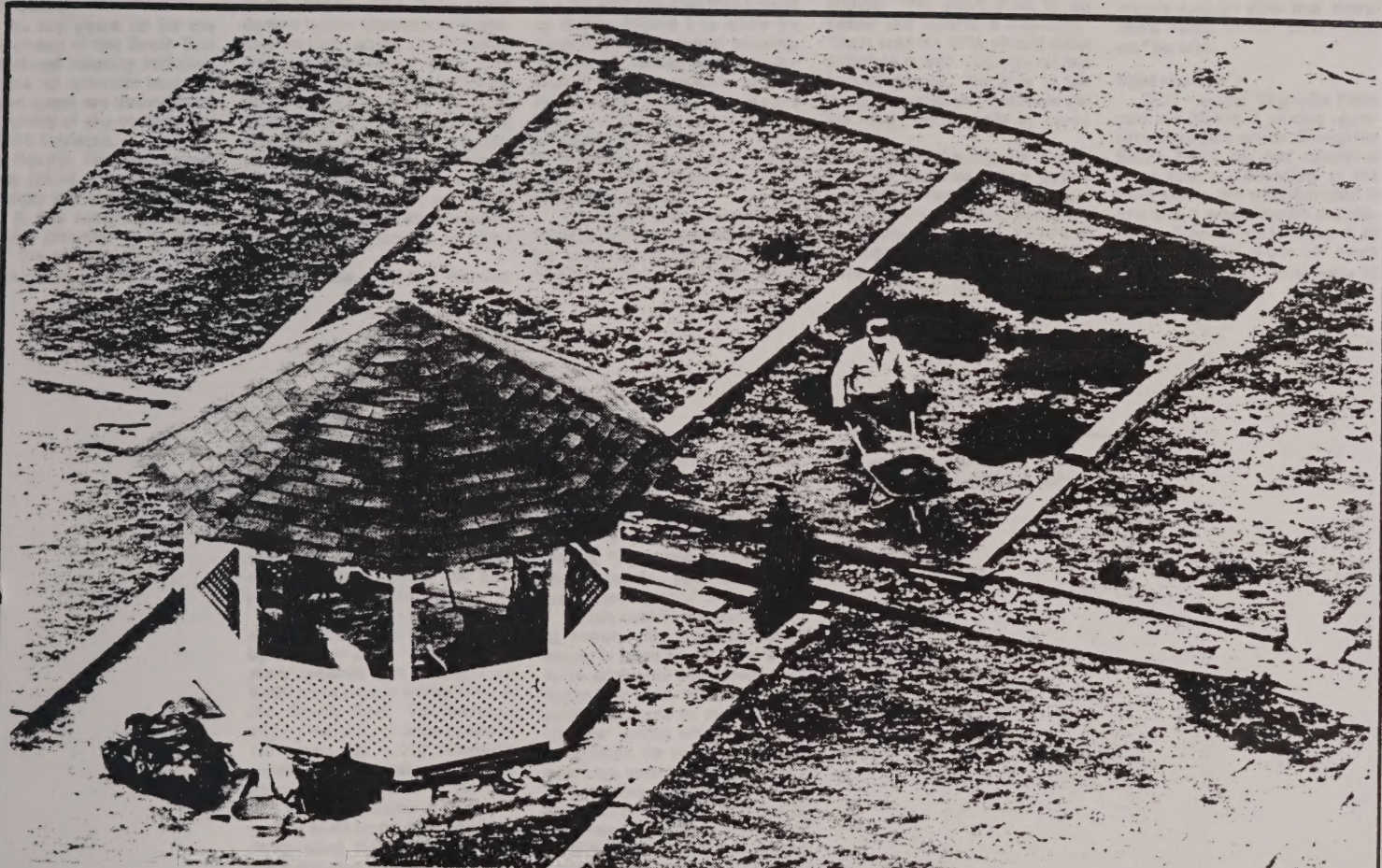
fort to develop city-owned vacant lots in the South End.

Immediately following the open space meeting at 8 p.m., city officials will meet with South End residents to discuss plans for the controversial Tree of Life transitional housing project. The meeting will review the Pavilion/Park development team's final proposal for developing the Washington St. Tree of Life site along with a companion parcel in Park Square. The BRA board of directors is expected to vote on the Pavilion/Park proposal later this month. The Tree of Life meeting will also be held at the Tubman House.

For more information on either meeting, call Mark Johnston, South End coordinator at the

Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, at 725-3485.

S.E. News 4/14/88 P.2



The plots thicken

Community gardeners brought new topsoil into the Rutland St. community garden last week, signaling that it's time for South End gardeners to get their hoes and seeds ready for another season. (Rose Marston photo)

S. E. News 4/28/88 P.3

The open question: housing or open space?

by J. G. Stalvey

As the city gears up for the second phase of the South End Neighborhood Housing Initiative, advocates for low-cost housing and open space are downplaying the possibility of any conflict over the SENHI II parcels.

The Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) plans to dispose of 44 empty lots and buildings in SENHI II, the second phase of the BRA's program to develop most of the property it still owns from the urban renewal projects

of the 1960s. The BRA hired Boston Urban Gardeners to prepare an open space needs study, which was released early this year. The authority has indicated that it supports setting aside 12 SENHI II parcels for permanent open space. While BUG suggested setting aside portions of two of the largest SENHI II parcels for open space, the BRA said early this month it supports designating all of both parcels as open space.

Ken Wade, a leading member

of a housing coalition that sprang up during SENHI I to lobby for construction of low-cost housing, said he is "concerned" that the BRA is making specific recommendations before residents have a chance to talk about the whole SENHI II package. No public meetings have been called specifically to discuss the second-phase parcels.

"We can't make decisions about where the gardens are until we know about the rest" of the SENHI II parcels, Wade said,

adding, "We don't want to be forced into making a decision." Wade said the BRA should soon schedule public meetings on the second phase. "It's time to get going," he said. BRA officials did not return phone calls by press time.

Wade said he expects that affordable housing, open space and other needs will be addressed once the community starts discussing the SENHI II package. "On certain sites we'll have some tough choices, but

there's enough sites that everyone's needs will be accommodated," he said.

Tight squeeze

BUG director Charlotte Kahn said the SENHI II parcels represent an opportunity to expand the South End's meager supply of open space. According to the BUG study, the neighborhood is one of the most densely populated in Boston, with about 1.46 acres of open space for every

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Open

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1,000 residents. That contrasts with 7.42 acres per 1,000 residents in South Boston and 5.45 per 1,000 in Back Bay.

Unless more open space is added, the situation will get worse by the year 2000, when a BRA study projects that as many as 6,000 more people will be living in the South End. To increase slightly the ratio of open space to 1.6 acres per 1,000 residents would require adding 10 to 13 acres of open space to the current stock, according to BUG.

The BUG study recommended designating 3.6 acres, all of it BRA-owned, of existing community gardens and open spaces as permanent open space. Many of those sites are near the center of the neighborhood, where they are readily accessible to children and the elderly, Kahn said. She noted that the BUG request falls far short of a BRA-sponsored density study that recommended setting aside 15 acres of open space just in the center of the neighborhood. "You'd have to be knocking buildings down" to reach that goal, Kahn said, adding, "it's not a very practical suggestion."

Jamming too many people into too little space doesn't do them any favor, Kahn said, noting that the city is reducing density by dismantling buildings at subsidized housing projects in Mission Hill and Dorchester. "The question is what kind of community do people want to see?" Kahn said. "You could build on every single site in the city." Kahn said that poorer people are the ones who need public open space the most. Many poor families aren't able to get to parks and recreational fa-

cilities outside their neighborhoods because they don't have cars. Those families "may really depend upon public open space" close to home, Kahn said, adding, "If you care about low-income people, you care about public open space."

Wade said he supports efforts to expand the neighborhood's supply of open space. "There has to be additional permanent open space," he said. Wade said residents will have to make "tough choices" about which sites are designated as open space and which are used to build housing.

Economics dictates that it's easier to build lots of housing on relatively larger sites. According to BRA projections, the 11 SENHI I projects will produce 337 housing units, 234 of which will be subsidized for low- and moderate-income residents, on sites that average over 14,000 square feet. The average size of the 32 parcels the BRA says are potential housing sites in SENHI II is only 7,000 square feet. 19 of the 32 are under 5,000 square feet. The average size of 14 parcels that BUG recommended be set aside in part or wholly for open space is nearly 12,000 square feet.

Wade said the size of the parcels will definitely play a role in how much affordable housing gets built in SENHI II. "There's only so much housing you can squeeze out of small sites," he said. The BRA says it expects to produce 275 units on the SENHI II housing sites. Wade said affordable housing advocates want affordability levels in SENHI II to be as high as in the program's first phase. SENHI I developers had to make two-thirds of their units low- and moderate-income. Whether such high levels of subsidized housing can be built on

the smaller SENHI II parcels, Wade said, is "a question only the BRA can answer."

BRA to consider South End housing & park needs together

By LAURA BROWN

BOSTON Redevelopment Authority officials said last week the next phase of a major redevelopment plan for the South End will weigh open space and housing issues together — not separately.

Recent meetings about the South End's open space needs have created confusion in the neighborhood about the city's plans for the second phase of the BRA-sponsored South End Neighborhood Housing Initiative.

A BRA recommendation to reserve two of the SENHI II land parcels for open space sparked criticism from local housing activists that the authority was trying to set the location of parks and gardens before officials talked to the neighborhood about housing.

But BRA spokesman Ralph Memolo said both issues will be considered together when the

‘The BRA hopes to build 275 units of housing on some of the 32 parcels.’

city launches a series of community meetings to discuss the 44 sites proposed for SENHI II sometime in the next few months.

“Any community process on phase two is going to follow the exact process followed by phase one,” Memolo said.

He added the timing of meetings about an open space study “may have led people to believe we’re addressing open space instead of housing before going into phase two, but that just isn’t so.”

Boston Urban Gardeners (BUG) conducted the South End open space study at the request of the BRA, and released the lengthy document in late February.

The BRA hopes to build 275 units of housing on some of the 32 parcels identified as “potential scattered housing development sites” for SENHI II.

BUG targeted the remaining 12 of the 44 parcels for permanent public open space.

But the group hasn’t yet had a chance to fully discuss its recommendations with the neighborhood, according to executive director Charlotte Kahn.

“I see (the study) as providing a lot of solid information for the SENHI process,” Kahn said. “I don’t have the impression the BRA is trying in any sense to force something down the collective throat of the neighborhood.”

Pat Cusick, director of the South End Neighborhood Action Program, said he’s optimistic the BRA will consider “all the allowable usages” of the SENHI parcels at one set of meetings.

“We would like to have a process that looks at all of the parcels in a comprehensive manner,” Cusick said. “And we need to have a laundry list of all the allowable usages.”

He added he’s very supportive of Boston Urban Gardeners’ proposals for more open space.

The redevelopment authority designated developers for SENHI I last winter. The combined projects are expected to produce 337 units of housing, with 234 designated for low- and moderate-income residents.

letters

Green acres

The 16th Annual Plant Sale and Swap at Titus Sparrow Park is scheduled for Sun., May 22 from 1-3 p.m. at the park, located between W. Newton and W. Rutland Sts. next to the Southwest Corridor Park. Come to buy or swap plants, come to meet your neighbors and fellow gardeners. Most items will be priced under \$1.

As in the past, a donation of perennials, vegetables and possibly some herbs from the Garden Club of Harvard, MA will be the "starter" and local gardeners are encouraged to donate or swap (for 25 cents) houseplants and/or divisions or thinnings from their gardens. Pots can be obtained by calling 262-6438. Also this year, some vegetable seedlings may be ordered in advance by calling that number or 266-9068. Proceeds from the event will be used to buy annuals to plant around Titus Sparrow Park. In case of rain the sale will be held the following Saturday, May 29.

Titus Sparrow Park has a rich history. In the early 1970s, the park was created on a site originally designated for housing under the South End urban renewal plan. Since its inception, the park has had the active participation of people from the

surrounding neighborhoods, first through a "task force" to help develop the design, and then as continuing coordinators with the Park Department's maintenance department. The park was named for the late Titus Sparrow, a long-time South End resident who had worked to make the neighborhood a more liveable place for all and to develop more recreational opportunities for young people. A fine tennis player and official at Longwood, he had encouraged the inclusion of a tennis court and would have offered instruction to local young people.

Depending on the time of day or day of the week, the park serves a variety of users--day care and local children, sun-bathers, ball-players, gardeners and even, after a snowstorm, children who coast on the hill. Now that the Southwest Corridor is completed, the tennis and basketball courts are back in active use.

As we all enjoy this "outdoor living room" which has been created in part by community effort, it is important that we also accept responsibility for its preservation. The Friends of Titus Sparrow Park have been successful in applying to the Park Department for a Park Partnership grant and will welcome participation by interested neighbors.

Approximately 100 years after the design of the Olmsted "Emerald Necklace," the Boston zoning bylaw now includes a specific "open space" category to protect and preserve parks and play grounds in the city. Although at this time few people would even imagine a serious threat to the survival of such open space as the Public Garden, the Common, the Esplanade or the Back Bay Fens, there have been proposals in the not-so-distant past to build housing, create parking lot or expand highways at their expense. Now we are seeing encouraging signs of support from the state, the city and community groups to restore and upgrade existing parks and even create new open spaces that will be forever protected by the new by-law.

Eleanor Strong

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Swap meet

Green thumbs Alice Herrlin of Tremont St. and Gene Jarvis of Tremont St. invested in some garden greenery at the 16th annual plant sale and swap at Titus Sparrow Park last Sunday. Proceeds from the sale will be used to buy annuals to plant around the park, located between W. Newton and W. Rutland Sts. adjacent to the Southwest Corridor park. (Linda Haas photo)

ROOM
TO
GROW

...

The 1984 lawsuit concerning the housing development, "Tremont Village" at the corner of Jefferson and Tremont streets, brought by the Bay Village Historic District Commission against the Boston Redevelopment Authority **was dismissed and settled by agreement May 23.**

The plaintiffs agreed to drop the lawsuit, also known as the "Garden Lawsuit," in exchange for \$77,000 and the city's promise to brick the sidewalks of Jefferson, Tremont and Church streets around the site.

The parties also reached an agreement to submit to the BRA other disputes that may arise between the Bay Village group and the developer, the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Fund, says group spokesman Alexander Bok.

The lawsuit was brought against the city because the Bay Village group believed the city was not enforcing a promise made by the developer to Bay Village residents about the design and construction of Tremont Village.

The lawsuit, says Bok, has made the developers improve the building design and refrain from using certain construction techniques, such as pile-driving, which could damage historically significant buildings nearby.

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ROOM TO GROW

by J. G. Stalvey

It doesn't get any more grass roots than this. Every spring and summer on empty lots cleared years ago by the city and then left empty, community gardeners take water bucket and spade in hand, and make the rubble bloom.

The South End/Lower Roxbury area boasts a dozen community gardens, ranging in size from the E. Berkeley St. garden, the largest of the lot at just over one acre, to a tiny one-twentieth-acre plot at the corner of Clarendon St. and Warren Ave. Most of the gardens sprang up in the mid-1970s, on empty lots where the city tore down buildings during the urban renewal projects of the 1960s and 70s, according to Eleanor Strong, president of the South End Garden Project.

Area residents, many of whom "had a tradition of farming," decided to make use of the lots, which stood empty for several years after urban renewal was stalled by local opposition. Some were literally built by neighbors, with varying degrees of help from the city and private agencies, especially Boston Urban Gardeners (BUG). At least one, the E. Berkeley St. garden, was built by contractors hired by the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA). "We said 'Let us garden until you decide what to do,'" Strong said. "Now they've become permanent because they've proved their value to the community." Early this year, the BRA put its stamp of approval on a plan, prepared by BUG, that recommended granting zoning protection to most of the space now used by gardeners.

Charles Whitlock, coordinator of the E. Berkeley St. garden, said about 140 people are tilling the soil there this season. Whitlock said most of the E. Berkeley St. gardeners are Chinese, including many elders, from the Castle Square housing project and adjacent Eight Streets neighborhood. Noting that many of the gardeners speak no English, while he speaks no Chinese, Whitlock said the language barrier is "a bit of a problem, but we get along quite well." The Chinese, he said, are "very intensive gardeners" who raise several hundred dollars worth of vegetables each season. In exchange, he said, gardeners pay \$10 every year for water and upkeep. Most community gardeners pay similar low fees.

"A lot of people see gardens as just a little weekend thing, but they're not," Whitlock said. "They have a great deal of value."

Julia Brown, coordinator of the Lenox/Kendall St. garden on Tremont St. in Lower Roxbury, said she usually freezes enough vegetables from one year's crop to feed her family through to the next harvest. The money she saved in the decade or so she's been tilling her plot, Brown said, helped put two of her children through college. "It's been a big help," she said.

Besides the monetary yields, Whitlock said, there are social benefits to be reaped from gardening. "It's a great place for getting people together. It's a real cultural experience," he said. Strong said gardening "is an activity that can bring a whole range of people together. Doug MacElroy, one of two coordinators at the Worcester St. community garden, said socializing can take nearly as much time as working the soil. "We talk a lot," he said.



Shui Ng of Dwight St. tends her plot at the E. Berkeley St. garden.



Lilies bloom in the Worcester St. garden.

Photos by
Linda Haas



Wesley Francis and Winnie Hoffman till neighboring plots at the Lenox/Kendall St. garden in Lower Roxbury. Francis has been gardening there seven years, and he thinks Southern transplants are the area's best gardeners. "They really know how," he says.

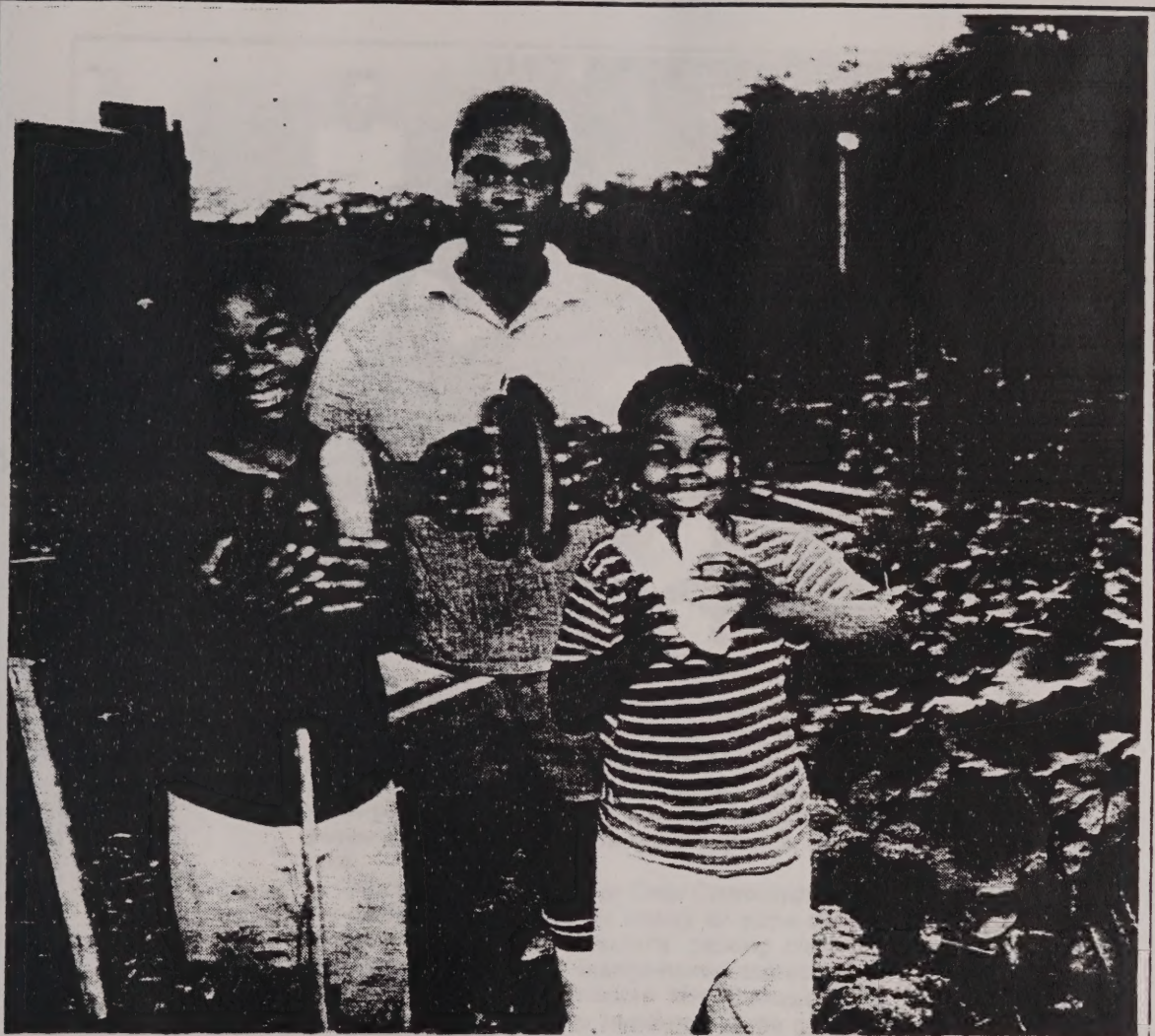
"We said 'Let us garden until you decide what to do [with vacant city land]'," recalls South End Garden Project President Eleanor Strong. "Now the gardens have become permanent because they've proved their value to the community."



Armand Guillory is a Louisiana native and self-described Cajun who says he was "raised with a hoe in my hand." Today he makes his own LA-style hot sauce from cayenne peppers he raises at the Worcester St. community garden. "It takes up a lot of my time--keeps me out of mischief," Guillory said of his earthy pursuits in the garden. He thinks of the Worcester St. gardeners as "one big family," and said gardeners there have made wreaths from flowers grown at the garden to pay tribute when one of their fellows passed away.

The Lenox/Kendall St. garden in Lower Roxbury was first planted by Julia Brown and her sister, Margaret Nottingham. The buildings that formerly stood on the site were knocked down in the 1960s to make way for the cancelled highway project that eventually became the Southwest Corridor. With the help of BUG, Brown and Nottingham got a load of dirt brought to the site by a National Guard dumptruck. The two of them spread the soil around and went from there. "We started making it look good, and then everyone got involved," Brown said. Part of the original garden was taken during road reconstruction in the early 1980s, Brown said. Now 22 gardeners work plots at Lenox/Kendall.





How does your garden grow?

■ Meet the Fords--Monakatellia, age 8, Thomas, age 14, and Kerisotellia, age 10--who are reaping a rich harvest from their plot at the Worcester St. community garden. The Ford kids have tended their own garden plot for three years, with some help from their father during the spring planting season. After that "we pretty much take care of it," says Robert. All over the South End, vacant lots are blooming under the care of community gardeners. To meet more of the South End's earthiest residents, see **pages 10-11.**

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Growing season

This community garden plot on Rutland St. is blossoming under the care of three clients from the adult day treatment program at the Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center on E. Newton St. The Fuller Center gardeners spend two mornings a week planting, weeding and watering their crop of cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, squash, collard greens, grapes and wild mint.

Conceived by Fuller Center Case Coordinator Lady Bird Smith, the garden provides outdoor activity for some clients, and fresh produce for the Fuller Center's cooking class. It has also provided a home for an orange-haired scarecrow made by 10 clients working with Expressive Arts Therapist Sara Hill. The scarecrow, which took up residence in the garden about two weeks ago, has so far been successful in frightening birds off the Fuller Center's and surrounding plots, Smith said. Fuller Center client Prince Gadson, who helped Smith weed the garden on a hot morning earlier this week, "likes the activity" of gardening, which he said takes him back to a time when he raised potatoes, sunflowers and cabbage in a garden at his home. The Fuller Center's Adult Day Treatment Program serves both outpatients and inpatients aged 21-65 who have experienced mental illness. (Linda Haas photo)

Urban preserves

Tomatoes, eggplants and squash are ready for picking in community gardens throughout Boston, but there's a weed lurking among the vegetables: the Boston Redevelopment Authority's indecision about protecting 10 of these precious slivers of land in the South End.

Besides providing fresh, inexpensive food, the gardens bring neighborhoods together by bridging barriers of class, race or age. They are especially valuable in the South End, which has fewer parks than other areas of the city.

Fifteen months ago, the BRA asked Boston Urban Gardeners, specialists on open-space issues, to investigate the possibilities for vacant land accumulated by the city during the urban-renewal upheaval of the 1960s and '70s. In February, the group recommended that 10 gardens be protected by the zoning code as part of a South End Open Space Land Trust.

Preservation of the gardens seemed a worthy goal and was embraced by BRA Director Stephen Coyle. The problem was that the 3.3 acres to be devoted to gardens had to be split off from other BRA land that would be used

for housing. The exact dimensions of the split have yet to be worked out, leaving the fate of the community gardens in doubt.

A trip to any of the gardens might encourage the BRA to act. They are well-tended and lush, reflecting the months of work since seeds were planted. A plot at Tremont and Kendall streets has corn sticking up above the rest of the plants. The gardens offer a pleasing contrast to the monotonous highways and drab housing developments that surround them.

Community gardens are fragile creatures of the 1970s, when land made vacant by urban renewal and residents' migration to the suburbs suddenly became available throughout the city. They need to be safeguarded against the development boom that has revived many sections of Boston at the cost of putting additional pressure on unprotected vacant land.

"The Greening of Boston," a report on the Boston landscape, called community gardens "a vital feature in this city of divided neighborhoods." The BRA should act to preserve the South End gardens before the first frost.

Boston Sunday Globe 9/25/88 P. A26



Above ground

South Ender Elizabeth Gipson shows off the new raised planting beds in the Braddock Park community garden, designed to make gardening accessible to wheelchair-bound gardeners. The new planters were funded by a grant from the Boston Foundation to the South End Garden Project, which plans to include accessible planters in other South End gardens as they are redesigned and upgraded. (Rose Marston photo)

S.E. News 5/18/89



Growing season

Thirteen-year-olds Ernest Partin (rear) and Mark Jenking are part of a group of teenagers from the Whittier St. housing development who are nurturing a new gardening business this spring. With seed money from Teens as a Community Resource and advice from Boston Urban Gardeners, the teens are growing herbs and flowers at the Lenox-Camden community garden, then selling them to the East Meets West catering company on Shawmut Ave. in the South End. Last week the teens also planted flower boxes outside the On the Park restaurant on Union Park. Says Boston Housing Authority youth worker Sean Haley: "This lets kids have a positive presence in the community." Here, Partin and Jenking tend their basil plants. (Linda Haas photo)

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South End gardens expected to get permanent status from city

continued from page 1

a new, 16-member board of directors, according to MacElroy. Each of the eight

gardens/parks will have a representative on the board. The other eight positions are open to any interested people in the neighborhood, explained MacElroy.

Spring is sowing season

The current wet weather is all too typical of New England, where spring generally consists of six to eight weeks of steady rain giving way the triple H's of summer. But the current soggy season hasn't dampened the spirits of the South End's hardcore gardeners.

The first smell of fresh soil sends many local gardeners out to one of the neighborhood's many community gardens to prepare their small plot of land for the season. Although the weather is still a bit cool for more delicate plants, sturdier crops have already found their way into the soil.

Eleanor Strong, president of the recently-reorganized South End Garden Project, has already been out to her plot several times, cleaning and doing some preliminary gardening.

"Peas like to be planted early," explained Strong, who planted hers during a warm spell in March. "For other plants you have to wait until well into May."

According to Strong most of the gardens in the neighborhood were formed on land abandoned following urban renewal attempts during the 1960s and early 70s. Many of the first gardeners were low-income residents with agricultural backgrounds, who used the free space to grow food, fixing up the land themselves and using discarded railroad ties to separate plots.

Although the gardens are more organized these days—each has a manager and charges a nominal yearly fee to help maintain the land—the spirit of today's gardeners, remains as demo-

cratic.

Doug MacElroy, who helps manage the Worcester St. garden, explained that the diversity of the neighborhood is reflected in what people choose to grow on their small plots of earth. In addition to the typical salad vegetables—tomatoes, lettuce and peppers—MacElroy has noticed some gardeners growing everything from corn to collard greens to a spinach-like vegetable native to Jamaica.

A common complaint among non-gardeners is the disheveled, shantytown look of some of the neighborhood gardens. But for Strong, the found bits of plywood and plastic reveal a startling resourcefulness and economy of space. The patchwork is especially true of Asian gardeners, who use trellises to increase their harvest.

"They are very resourceful," explains Strong. "Those of us in favor of scrapping have mixed feelings," about the need to make the gardens more orderly.

There are effort to clean up the area a bit, however. Boston Urban Gardeners (BUG) recently received a grant from the Public Facilities Department to complete some work on the E. Berkely Gardens, including installation of a water system and adding mulch to the paths.

Strong stated that there may still be plots available at some gardens, and that prospective planters should try to contact the garden's manager in order to get their name on the waiting list.

Steven F. Brown

Until the new board is elected, the current members of the South End Garden Project will serve as the interim board of directors, he explained.

With the new designation, he explained, the gardeners can limit their fears to the hard New England soil and the city's unpredictable weather. "Before, there was always the fear that if the garden land would be taken away if the BRA sold it," MacElroy stated.

John Feingold, a consultant for the Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of open space, particularly in urban settings, was instrumental in negotiating with the BRA and helping organize the Land Trust proposal.

According to Feingold, the BRA tentatively agreed to the proposal last June, when the authority gave temporary designation of the eight sites to the TPL as a holding entity. At that time the BRA agreed in principal to turn over the land to the South End Garden Project if it met three key criteria.

The first demand, Feingold explained, was the formation of a new organization to manage the property. Over the next year, he worked with Strong and other members of the garden project to develop such a group.

After debating how to create an organization that would represent the diverse interests in the community, Feingold and Strong realized the Garden Project already met that criteria. Instead of creating a new body, Feingold, Strong and other members of the group, decided

to transform the Garden Project into the Land Trust, in part to avoid creating separate gardening factions.

Once the new organization was formed, the group had to draw up a detailed plan for running the gardens and open spaces. To help in that effort, the garden project recruited folks from Boston Urban Gardeners, (BUG) a city-wide coalition, to help draw up preliminary plans for each garden.

Julie Stone, BUG's community gardens resource manager, explained that the group was eager to work with the garden project in drawing up plans. Even before that work, BUG had conducted a study of South End open space commissioned by the BRA.

A key development on the economic front came last January when the Prudential Insurance Company agreed to pay \$100,000 in linkage funds to the garden project, Feingold explained. Nearly half of that money will be set aside as an endowment, while other portions will be cover for operating expenses and emergencies.

The eight sites include: the Lenox/Kendall garden on Tremont St. in Lower Roxbury; the W. Springfield St. garden; the Worcester St. garden; the garden at Warren and Clarendon; the gazebo garden on Washington St.; parcel 33b on Northampton St.; a parcel on Dartmouth St.; and an empty lot on Columbus by the Harriet Tubman House. The last two sites will be turned into small parks.

Fertile ground for planting

City expected to grant permanent status to local community gardens next week

by Steve LeBlanc

When the South End Garden Project, a local gardening advocacy group, voted last Saturday to transform itself into the South End/Lower Roxbury Open Space Land Trust, it helped seal the fate for a number of open spaces in the neighborhood.

For gardeners and park lovers alike, that fate couldn't be brighter.

The vote, according to South End Garden Project president Eleanor Strong, comes near the end of a long process of negotiation between the neighborhood non-profit group and the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) to preserve land currently used for local gardens by protecting it from future development.

Under that agreement, Strong explained, the BRA will turn over the eight open spaces (five existing gardens and three empty lots) to the newly formed Land Trust, which will own and manage the property. A final vote on the plan, which was first

agreed upon in principal last year, is expected at the April 19 meeting of the BRA board of directors.

"It's good to have a recognition of land that isn't built up," said Strong, a passionate open space advocate and long-time gardener.

Doug MacElroy is one of the

managers of the 150-plot Worcester Street garden, one of the eight parcels, and a member of the South End Garden Project. MacElroy worked on the committee that helped draft the Land Trust's new by-laws.

One of the first tasks of the new organization will be to elect

See Garden, page 5



DIGGING IN: South End gardener Xue Dai gets her E. Berkeley St. garden plot in shape for planting by digging out weeds. (Rose Marston photo)

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Garden plot

The Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) board of directors last week formally approved a plan to turn over eight South End lots to a local land trust, according to John Feingold of the Trust for Public Land.

As part of the agreement, the plots, which include a number of active community gardens, will fall under the control of the newly formed South End/Lower Roxbury Open Space Land Trust. That organization, an outgrowth of the South End Garden Project, will own and manage the properties as green space, according to Feingold, who helped

negotiate the plan.

The agreement is the first of its kind for the city, explained Feingold, noting that open space advocates and redevelopment authorities are usually at odds with one another. In fact, he added, the BRA is viewing the agreement as a possible model for similar situations in other parts of the city.

The new land trust is seeking both gardeners and people interested in helping maintain green space in the neighborhood to serve on the organization's volunteer board of directors, Feingold explained. Interested residents should contact South End resident Eleanor Strong, the land trust's interim president.

S.E. News 4/26/90



The New York Times/Rick Friedman

City Year, a youth service program in Boston whose members' ethnic, economic and social diversity is a source of pride to the city, work together to help

Boston's most vulnerable residents. Members removed debris from the Berkley Community Garden, where food is grown in Boston's South End.

Good fences make
good neighbors,
even when they're
made of trash.

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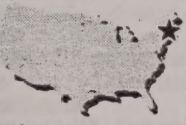


Agence France-Presse

Boston Journal

Adversity Can Help A Garden To Grow

Special to The New York Times



BOSTON, May 22
— On a four-block lot in Boston's South End, Kai Fok Lai crouches

behind a wall of bedsprings, sticks and refrigerator shelving, working the soil with a spatula.

Two decades ago the row houses that stood there were demolished in an urban renewal program. But the renewal never came. Instead, Mrs. Lai, who is 70 years old, and others who live nearby quietly began carving out tiny vegetable gardens amid the rubble.

But it has not been easy for the Berkeley Street Garden to take root, and not just because of inhospitable soil. The project, one of Boston's largest urban gardens, has also been buffeted by economic and social forces that have long roiled the South End.

The gardeners, mostly elderly Chinese, often must scratch out a living hampered by their lack of job skills and the fact that they do not speak English. With vegetables priced out of reach in many markets, the gardens help keep food on the table.

But vagrants and homeless people stole entire harvests of melons and peas. And fights on nearby streets often spilled over into the carefully cultivated plots.

Like any community struggling to survive in a foreign land, the gardeners defended themselves, turning the garden into a fortress of nearly 100

Reliant Effort Goes for Naught

The inexorable flood waters of the Trinity River defeated the efforts of Howard Pipkins, who built a levee around his house in Dayton, Tex., with a bulldozer in an effort to prevent flooding. The house is shown on Monday, above, and last Thursday.

Ban on TV

ges to consider revising the rules. In September the panel, headed by Federal District Judge Robert F. Peckham in San Francisco, will file its report to the United States Judicial Conference, policy-making arm of the Federal judiciary.

Last August, in what it called its tentative conclusions, the committee commended maintaining the ban. This month, in response to requests from Mr. Dyk and Steven Brill of the Trial Network, a new 24-hour cable television network owned by Time Warner Inc., the panel reopened deliberations.

A few days before it did so, Mr. Kasaneier, a Wisconsin Democrat, urged the panel and urged it to reconsider the ban.

Rehnquist Awaits the Report

Good fences make good neighbors, even when they're made of trash.

walls, many of them built of stitched-together trash.

"We built this because last time somebody stole the plants," Mrs. Lai said, pointing to the fence.

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cameras, but the
ows that when they
works well," said
is in the Washing-
firm of Jones, Day,
Dyk represents a
ws media organiza-
f major televi-
l New York Times,
on Post, C-SPAN,
g Service and The
seeking to extend
courts.

'Quite Close'

's clients have pro-
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hough, the viewing
first chance to see
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and Federal law.
Robert W. Kasten-
the House Judici-
Subcommittee on
Property and the
Justice, said yester-
policy was "quite
"The question is
will be, and how far

Chief Justice Rehn-
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Bus Drivers -Work Offer

May 22 (AP) — The
g Greyhound
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tep that could make
e for \$10 million a

d the offer "part of
ne three-month-old
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turn-to-work offer-
ing last week by the
for the National
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arges would mean
ould have to give
ack their jobs, with
placement drivers,
day.

experiment with television and radio
coverage which you describe." He
noted, however, that he would await the
committee's report before committing
himself.

Toni House, the Supreme Court's
public information officer, said yester-
day that the position expressed in the
Chief Justice's letter reiterated his
long-standing position on the matter.

But Mr. Kastenmeier called it "very
promising," adding, "I thought his lack
of opposition sent an important mes-
sage: that the Peckham committee
could rely on the fact that the Chief
Justice and probably the Supreme
Court would entertain any such rule
change favorably."

The final decision rests with the Judi-
cial Conference, a 26-member panel
headed by the Chief Justice, which will
next meet in September, just after the
panel's report. In some instances, as in
a recent dispute over death penalty ap-
peals, the conference and the Chief Jus-
tice take opposing views.

But as a practical matter, Chief Jus-
tice Rehnquist's views on this matter
could be decisive, much as Mr. Burg-
er's were before him. "His advocacy
could very well make the difference,"
said J. Laurent Scharff of Washington,
who represents the Radio-Television
News Directors Association.

At first, an experiment with cameras
would most likely apply only to pro-
ceedings in the district courts, Mr. Kas-
tenmeier said.

Earlier this month, Justice Kennedy
of the Supreme Court solicited views
about televised court proceedings from
a group of visiting students from the
Bronx High School of Science, then of-
fered some of his own.

According to a report in Legal Times
of Washington, Justice Kennedy men-
tioned the reluctance of some Justices
to lose their anonymity, as well as their
fears that lawyers would posture be-
fore the cameras. But he went on to say
that the advent of cameras in the High
Court was "inevitable."

Last December, Mr. Dyk sent letters
to 900 Federal judges inquiring about
how they felt about the matter. He said
the 40 judges who responded split about
evenly on the question of lifting the ban.
A Michigan judge, Douglas W. Hillman,
wrote, "It would be much more desira-
ble to adopt rules that will permit the
public to see us at our work and to
judge for themselves."

Toast' to Gorbachev

IS, May-22 (AP) —
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on 38 billboards in
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he distributor of the
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e "It's our part to
respectfully," said
on, president of the
ers Wholesale Liq-
f St. Paul.

nson Brothers had
billboard campaign
dka. The billboards

show a likeness of Mr. Gorbachev
holding a bottle of Karkov under the
caption "The Party's Over," a
reference to the Communist Par-
ty's troubles.

Some Minnesotans felt the dis-
plays, which were scheduled to be
up until mid-June, would insult Mr.
Gorbachev.

"We planned this campaign
many, many months ago," Mr.
Johnson said. "We did not know
Gorbachev was going to come to
the Twin Cities."

The billboard displays have been
up since April 15 and will probably
come down by midweek.

The garden's newest assailants are
the upscale young professionals who
have settled in the neighborhood in
the last two years.

They complained that rats and rob-
bers were hiding in the garden at
night, and that knives and guns were
dropped off in trash piles.

Then there was the more delicate
issue of fertilizer.

With a pungent mix called "night
soil," a mix of human excrement and
fish emulsion, the immigrants fol-
lowed a Chinese tradition of treating
the nutrient-poor ground so their
crops would grow.

"You would sit down for a barbecue
and it would be like low tide," said
Bill McCarthy, who lives in a reno-
vated house next to the garden.

The South End residents "were
concerned that this was an unneces-
sary health hazard," said Julie Stone,
director of education for the Boston
Urban Gardeners, a nonprofit group
that has upgraded more than 100
community gardens in the city.

But Mr. McCarthy and other resi-
dents who live near the garden did
more than complain about its fertil-
izer and unsightly appearance.
Armed with their own hoes and aided
by the Boston Urban Gardeners and a
\$50,000 grant from the Boston Public
Facilities Department, an army of
volunteers and translators have
helped the Chinese to put in new soil
and a new water system.

With the improvements came new
rules. According to a notice in Chi-
nese posted recently in the garden,
\$10 yearly fees must be paid, the
gates are locked at night and the pun-
gent fertilizer is forbidden.

And, like it or not, it also means the
walls are coming down.

Many gardeners say they are
happy to receive the new wire fences
supplied by the Boston Urban Gar-
deners. "No problem," one elderly
woman said through a translator. But
other gardeners are troubled.

"I spent the whole day Saturday
building this wall," said Sin Yung Lai,
41, as she ran her hand along the
6-foot wall. "It is so fine."

Wedge between the predomi-
nantly black Roxbury section, the
fashionable Back Bay and an expand-
ing Chinatown, Boston's South End
has long been an social and economic
mixing bowl. Given the diversity of
residents now signing up for plots,
community leaders see the garden as
a way to promote integration and to
provide badly needed open space.

"I find gardening here to be a very
rich experience," said Duncan David-
son, who spent a recent lunch break
looking over his sprouting eggplants,
chives and green beans. "The old Chi-
nese women are wonderful; they look
through the fence and point at your
plants."

And Mr. Davidson said he was even
fond of the homemade fortresses that
are being taken down. "I like junk
fences," he said. "I wish they could be
junkier."

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PARK PLANNERS: Looking forward to the creation of Wellington Green on this vacant lot are Claremont Neighborhood Association members (from left): Joseph McLeish, Roy Krantz, Girna Kidane, Nancy Kafka, Jonathan Fassil, Mike Di Caprio, Raymond Parks, and Juls Parvella. (Rose Marston photo)

Turning over a new leaf

A plan to bring a little 'Green' to Wellington St.

by J. G. Stalvey

Members of the Claremont Neighborhood Association last week reviewed a proposal to convert a fenced-in vacant lot at the corner of Columbus Ave. and Wellington St. into a "pocket park" with flower beds, trees and a tot lot.

Members of the association said this week that they hope to start putting together a budget and raising funds for the park, which they have dubbed Wellington Green. Supporters say the creation of Wellington Green would return to the neighborhood a public space that had served as an informal park for years, until it was taken over by a contractor working on the reconstruction of Columbus Ave. in the mid-1980s. The grassy lot has stood vacant since the completion of the street rebuilding project in 1986.

The proposed Wellington Green site is one of eight parcels that the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) is turning over to the South End/Lower Roxbury Open Space Land Trust. The trust was formed to acquire city-owned lots and preserve them as open space, including small parks and community gardens. The parcels are expected to be officially conveyed to the trust by the BRA by sometime next fall.

Frank Jordan, co-president of the Claremont group, said residents wanted to reclaim the lot and ensure that no building would be constructed on the site. "It's designed to create a sense of open space" in a densely populated neighborhood, Jordan said.

Wellington St. resident Mike Di Caprio also said the proposed design would create a greater sense of space. "It opens the street up and makes it wider at that point. It's very inviting," he said, adding that the empty lot makes Wellington St. "look like an unfinished street."

Jordan said the draft design, which calls for bricking over a large section of the lot in addition to installing the trees, flower beds and tot lot, was well received

at an association meeting last week. The design isn't expected to be finalized until sometime this summer, he said. "What we're looking for now is comment," he said.

Wellington St. resident Doug MacElroy said association members started working on the Wellington Green design last winter. MacElroy said the park's design reflects concerns about safety and maintenance. Association members who worked on the design favor brick because it requires very little upkeep. The design provides no seating except a bench in the tot lot for parents watching their children.

MacElroy said that the lack of seating reflects concerns about the loitering, public drinking and drug activity that plague so many local parks. "We don't really want it to be a place where people hang out," he said, adding, "it's intended to be a pleasant place to walk through." MacElroy said that the design allows enough space for benches or other seating to be installed if that is what neighbors decide they want.

Jordan said a 19th-century rowhouse that stood on the proposed Wellington Green site was destroyed by a fire about 20 years ago. After the building was razed, the lot became a local gathering place, complete with a horseshoe pit and a tree and other greenery that neighbors planted.

Di Caprio said that when he moved to Wellington St. a decade ago, locals frequently passed the time sitting on sofas and drinking beer. "It was never a problem," he said, although the park sometimes got, in his words, "kind of unsightly."

Jordan said the days of the informal park ended when a contractor working on Columbus Ave. decided to use the lot as a parking spot for heavy equipment. "He drove his bulldozers and front-end loaders onto there and destroyed everything," Jordan said, adding that neighbors complained to city officials but didn't get any response.

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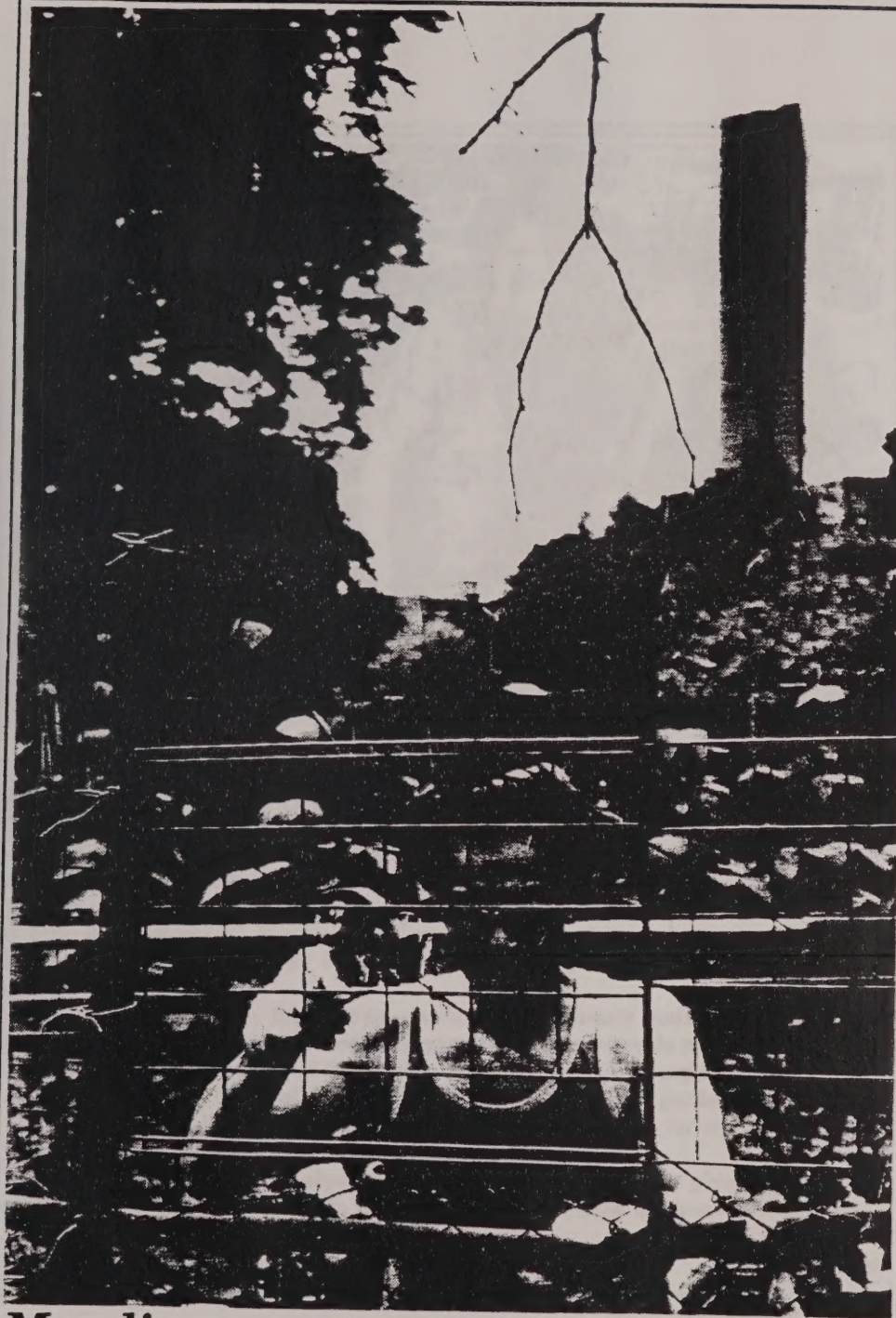
Growing season

'Tiny' Gamble, of W. Springfield St., takes a break from weeding her garden in the W. Springfield St. community garden plot. (Katie Clark-Moynahan photo)

Mending
fences

Many of the people who live in the
area are doing a lot of work in the
community garden. (Katie Clark-Moynahan photo)

S.E. News 7/13/90 P.15



Mending fences

*Jimmy Hui of the Castle Square apartments,
tends the fence around his garden at the E.
Berkeley St. community garden. (Patrick
Whittemore photo)*

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Green grows their garden

Meet two women who've brought a lot of green—and some well-deserved recognition—to their corner of Lower Roxbury. Elizabeth James (left) coordinator of the Kendall and Lenox Community Garden, and former coordinator Julia Brown (right) were among 23 Kendall and Lenox gardeners honored recently when the Massachusetts Horticultural Society awarded their garden the "1989 Community Garden Award."

The Society cited the Tremont St. garden's meticulously maintained individual plots, and its bright flower borders in singling it out for statewide recognition.

The garden has a total of 23 garden plots and is full to capacity every year, according to James. Many of the gardeners have been with the garden since it began 11 years ago, like Brown, who was coordinator of the garden for eight years. Two years ago, she handed over the reins to James.

As coordinator, James helps gardeners set out their plots, gives advice, and maintains the borders (with help from Brown and gardener Margaret Nottingham). "I'm out here almost every day," she said.

—Linda Kincaid

Garden party

The Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) will hold a community meeting tonight, July 26, to discuss a proposal to designate several empty South End lots as open space to prevent them from be-

ing used as building sites.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Harriet Tubman House, 566 Columbus Ave.

The BRA and local open space advocates have said they want the city to rezone the 14 parcels—many of which are used as community gardens—to protect the neighborhood supply of open space.

SE News 7/26/90

A real garden spot

Hard work, cash, help local gardeners turn over a new leaf at E. Berkeley St. parcel

by Steve LeBlanc

In less than a year, a concentration of public, private and community resources spearheaded by a small army of volunteers has helped transform the community garden on E. Berkeley St. from a patchwork of rag-tag plots into a neighborhood jewel that organizers say is both a celebration of urban gardening and of the neighborhood's multicultural heritage.

The transformation has been so startling that the garden was recently honored as the outstanding community garden in the state by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. The garden has even gained national exposure with features in *The New York Times* and on the NBC "Sunday Today" show.

Overwhelming change

Dwight St. resident Bill McCarthy, a member of the garden's 10-person board, said the transformation and all the sudden attention are a bit overwhelming. According to McCarthy, the whole endeavor, including more than \$50,000 in grants from city agencies and private foundations, began last winter with a modest suggestion to build a better fence.

"Everyone on the board started out with the idea to make it a little better than it was. We never thought that in just five months we could have come this far," McCarthy stated.

Since April, the garden has seen vast improvements, noticeable even to non-gardeners who happen to pass by the area. In addition to the construction of a new irrigation system, new fences and a new Chinese-style gateway and Victorian arbor, literally tons of debris

the garden committee enlisted the aid of Julie Stone, a community organizer from Boston Urban Gardeners (BUG). With the help of Stone, the committee secured a \$43,500 grant from the city's Public Facilities Department (PFD) to pay for construction of the fences and irrigation system.

In addition to the PFD grant, Stone and McCarthy secured funds from the Boston Foundation's Small Grant Program, administered through the Greenspace Alliance, to pay for the design and construction of the gateway and arbor.

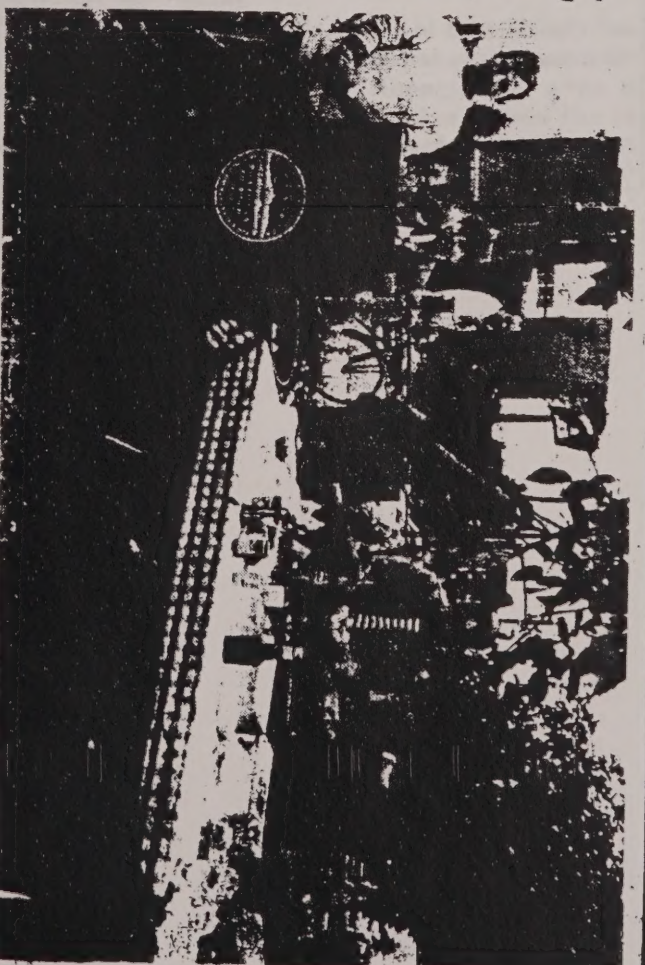
The effort to bring together the neighborhood's diverse cultures was as important to Stone as fixing up the garden. Many long-time gardeners are elderly Chinese who stuck with the garden during the heyday of urban renewal, when it seemed that bulldozers would roll in any day to claim the land for development. Many Chinese gardeners recycled bedsprings, ironing boards, screens and other household items to construct their own fences during those lean years.

Multicultural respect

"My interest was to bring the neighborhood together through multicultural respect and understanding," Stone said. "It's really exciting."

McCarthy also enjoys the mixing of cultures that he said happens naturally in the garden. Neighbors who are separated by vast barriers of culture, language and age can find a common horticultural language, he said.

"The goal is to open up the garden to the whole community," McCarthy ex-



GREENSPACE: Betsey Johnson (at podium), of the South End/Lower Roxbury Open Space Land Trust, addresses the gathering at last weekend's "Art in the gardens" event last weekend at the E. Berkeley St. community garden. (Linda Haas photo)

was one of the original Berkeley St. gardeners. For the past 18 years Yee, has harvested melons, Chinese string beans, snow peas and cabbage from his garden. A member of the garden committee, Yee has helped translate for the Chinese community and served as community liaison.

"People like it"

"Now it looks so much better. People like it," Yee said, explaining that the improvements were equally appreciated among the Chinese gardeners. "A few years ago no one took care of it. There was no water until July. People carried it from home. Now there's water all around."

Not all donations to the garden came in the form of foundation grants. Several neighborhood organizations, including the Eight Streets, Shawmut Ave. and Ellis

provided by the gardeners themselves, many outside groups, including work crews from City Year program, Massachusetts Halfway House Program, Boston University and Harvard University, pitched in during the summer. The City's Parks and Recreation Department also helped but, hauling away tons of debris.

Last weekend the garden committee hosted an "Art in the Garden" party celebrating the success of this year's clean-up and renovation and detailing plans to continue the renovations, including more fencing.

Threat of development

One of the most positive results of the garden's transformation is the possibility that the garden might finally be permanently spared from the threat of development. In the nearly 20 years since the site was shown the

Planting the seeds of debate

Land use question focuses on the future of Berkeley St. garden

Steve LeBlanc

The future of the Berkeley St. community garden has become the focus of a neighborhood debate in recent weeks as garden advocates have rallied support for the open space while others in the community are calling for part of the land to be developed as affordable housing.

The lot, which stretches along Berkeley St. from Tremont St. to Shawmut Ave., has been owned by the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) since the heyday of urban renewal. For many years the garden, which was well-used but poorly maintained, was considered an eyesore by some in the community.

During the past year however, a coalition of local residents, garden advocates and neighborhood associations have worked to improve the garden. After securing a number of grants, and organizing volunteers from the community and outside groups, the garden has experienced a rebirth, according to its supporters. In September, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society named it best community garden in the state.

The recent discussion of the garden's future has been sparked in part by the scheduled unveiling this week of the South End/Lower Roxbury Development

Policy Plan. That plan, which sets development guidelines for the neighborhood, singles out the garden as a "special study area," effectively leaving the future of the parcel undecided.



A CROSSROADS: The future of the Berkeley St. community garden has become the center of an intense debate. (Rose Marston photo)

Importance of open space

Dwight St. resident Bill McCarthy, who helped spearhead the garden's renewal this summer, this week stressed the importance of the open space. This summer's renovation of the garden, McCarthy stated, helped bring together people of all racial, social and economic backgrounds.

"It adds to the enrichment of all our lives because of the diversity of [the gardeners]. It's something that's really lacking in this city," stated McCarthy.

McCarthy and other open space advocates would like to see the BRA turn over the land to the recently formed South End/Lower Roxbury Open Space Land Trust. That designation, he said, would guarantee that the garden remains as open space.

Other South End residents and activists, who stressed the need for affordable housing in the neighborhood, are hoping that any plan concerning the future of the land takes that need into account.

South End resident Sam Khoury has had a housing proposal on the boards for several years. Khoury, who owns a house on Shawmut Ave., would like to see the parcel developed on the Shawmut

See Berkeley, page 15

SENEWS (12 6-73)90

Berkeley garden is focus of debate

continued from page 1

Ave. and Tremont St. ends of the garden. In his proposal, the remaining land, approximately 60% of the current space, would remain as a community garden.

Proposal with everything

"We're not trying to take anything away from the neighborhood," Khoury stated. "My proposal would have everything—housing, parking and the garden."

Khoury's plan would require that the entire parcel be gutted in order to build the housing on either end, as well as an underground parking lot in the center. The land above the parking lot would be available for gardening.

"There's no fight," Khoury said, downplaying any tensions between his proposal and the garden advocates. "We'll wait and see what the BRA decides."

According to Phil Zeigler, a BRA staffer working on the South End/Lower Roxbury plan, the agency has no plans as yet for the garden, and will remain "open-minded to all points of view."

Zeigler said that the agency has not received any official proposals for the

property, but that they were aware of Khoury's plans. Zeigler also stated that the BRA has received a number of letters from neighborhood associations calling for the garden to remain all open space.

The parcel's designation as an "special study area" will allow an open discussion of the parcel's future, Zeigler said, noting both the garden's recent improvements and the continuing call for affordable housing. Zeigler said it is possible the parcel could be turned over to the South End/Lower Roxbury Open Space Land Trust. The BRA earlier this year turned over several open space parcels in the neighborhood to the Trust.

Neighborhood opinion shift

Part of the controversy centers around a 1988 South End open space needs assessment study conducted by the non-profit Boston Urban Gardeners (BUG). In that report, BUG reported that the neighborhood endorsed a 60/40 percent split between open space and housing on the parcel.

Pat Cusick, director of the South End Neighborhood Action Program (SNAP), a local anti-poverty agency, cited the re-

port this week in calling for a mixed use of the parcel. "I support the position of BUG that this should be housing and open space," Cusick stated.

BUG's position seems to be changing however. In light of the recent improvements to the garden, sentiment in the neighborhood seems to be shifting toward keeping the garden an open space, BUG representative Julie Stone said this week.

"The [1988] study needs to be updated and reassessed in light of tremendous support for the garden and the physical improvements of the open space," stated Stone, who said that the group is working to get a "fair and true" survey of neighborhood opinion.

The garden has already won the support of a number of local groups, including the Shawmut Ave., Eight Streets and Ellis neighborhood associations, according to representatives of each group.

"We voted 100 percent to keep it an open space and put it into the land trust," explained Peter Chin of the Eight Streets association. "It is where it is now because of a lot of work by people in the neighborhood," Chin added.

Appendix 2

in the history of the Community Farm

45 Central Avenue, Boston Park, MA 02108 (617) 251-1200

Garden History and Organizational Development

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION FOR A COMMUNAL

Community gardening began in the United States as a response to support food production during both the First and Second World Wars, hence the name "Victory Garden." The tradition of urban gardening, which one can find throughout history as "a kitchen" or "family" garden, was also a natural response to industrialization. It is no surprise that over the last two decades it has become as popular as urban centers throughout the country.

THE ORIGINS OF THE LAND

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Northeast Corridor of the United States faced many long established problems. To pave the way for highways and other city centers, the cities, including Boston, had to give up their urban centers. The two (given an urban block of brick row housing along the Berkeley Street in the City. The land was given to become part of the US / 4 highway system, but never was completed in years. Eventually, the residents of the neighborhood began to grow food. This project was known as the Berkeley Street Community Garden. What follows is a brief history and description of its organizational development.

THE HISTORY OF THE GARDEN

Reorganization, Development and Public Involvement

Early 1970s: A number of local residents, primarily from the elderly Asian community, began to grow food and vegetables in their yards, but they found either difficult to obtain or expensive to purchase. Many of their seeds were imported from China or from directly from members. The practice of growing seeds from home and growing became a tradition in this day.

Mid-1970s: Vietnamese and gardening lovers of a more diverse population in the South East neighborhood brought together a group of people who formed an organization called The South East Garden Project. The organization included people such as Chuanan Kahn (founder and leader of the South East Garden Project) and the Day (the first



Boston Urban Gardeners at the Community Farm
46 Chestnut Avenue, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 (617) 522-1259

BERKELEY STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION FOR A COMMON GOAL

Community gardening began in the United States as a response to support food production during both the First and Second World Wars, hence the name "Victory Garden." The tradition of urban gardening, which one can find throughout Europe as "a lotment" or "family" gardens, was also a natural response to industrialization; it is no surprise that over the last two decades it has become so popular in urban centers throughout this country.

THE ORIGINS OF THE LAND

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Northeast Corridor of the United States razed many long established neighborhoods to pave the way for highways and allow easy access into the cities. Ironically, it was part of this redevelopment scheme that tore down an entire block of brick row housing along East Berkeley Street in the '60s. The land was slated to become part of the US I-95 highway system, but instead remained vacant for years. Eventually, the residents of the neighborhood began to grow food. This parcel has become known today as The Berkeley Street Community Garden. What follows is a brief history and recounting of its organizational development.

THE HISTORY OF THE GARDEN

Reorganization, Neighborhood and Public Investment

Early 1970s: A handful of local residents, primarily from the elderly Asian community, began to grow food, indigenous to their culture, that they found either difficult to obtain or expensive to purchase. Many of their seeds were imported from China or sent directly from relatives. This practice of getting seeds from home and growing favorite foods continues to this day.

Mid-1970s: Recognition and gardening interest of a more diverse population in the South End neighborhood brought together a group of people who formed an organization called The South End Garden Project. Their membership included people such as Charlotte Kahn (founder and former Director of Boston Urban Gardeners) and Mel King (then State

Representative who had sponsored legislation that allowed the use of public land for urban gardening). This interest spurred the involvement of the City of Boston to make a major commitment to develop land for the purposes of gardening. Mayor Kevin White's administration developed the "The Revival Program" to support the city-wide genesis of community gardening, and in particular, the original construction of The Berkeley Street Garden in 1976.

1976: A contract from the Public Facilities Department of the City of Boston is awarded to Maguire Co. to build the garden with federal funds as part of the development of 22 sites. The contract specifications included a high tech water system with access spigots throughout the site, loam, R.R. tie construction of over 100 individual plots and chain link fencing around the entire site.

1977: During this year, the garden organization stabilized and established a working body of officers under a garden president, who instituted a plot fee structure and a set of garden rules in English and Chinese.

In addition to new garden construction, "The Revival Program" provided technical support, administered through The Christian Herter Urban Environmental Center. The Herter Center offered rototilling and other minor services and hosted the first Urban Gardening Conference — well attended by members of the South End Garden Project.

1977 - mid-1980s: The garden grew to over 100 families and, for awhile, became a very productive urban garden. But due to the disinvestment from the city, the garden entered a phase of steady decline. This lack of support came was apparent at several sources: the Boston Redevelopment Authority who owned the land; the development sponsor, The Public Facilities Department; and the Parks and Recreation Department, who had been seen at the time as the potential manager of "Victory Gardens" city-wide. The deterioration of the superstructure within the garden continued as the garden had no maintenance investment or other support strategy from the city. The garden population hadn't the resources, either financial (as the garden dues were the only form of income) or otherwise, to sustain the garden to a functioning standard. The downward spiral included the water system breaking and only being partially repaired through garden dues income, the timbers deteriorating, the erosion of the soil and broken chain link fences that led to illegal dumping and health hazards to name some of the most significant problems.

1980s: This decade saw a shift in South End demographics, in particular in the Berkeley Street Garden neighborhood. As the diversity of the population increased so did the ratio of low-income families to wealthy residents. The tragedies of homelessness and joblessness were growing as the economy went from boom to bust. This led directly to the breakdown of the organization and communication within the garden. The coordinator moved away and that strong management was not successfully replaced. Because the garden seemed to be "unmanaged" or vacant, the gardeners found themselves sharing the land where they grew their food with homeless people who needed to shower and relieve themselves. Public drunkenness in the garden became a problem; on occasion, gardeners were actually threatened. Theft and destructive behavior became commonplace. The gardens took on an appearance of a shantytown as gardeners constructed barriers around their plots to protect not only themselves but also the valuable food they grew. These barriers were made from whatever material was at hand or could be scrounged. One could see bed springs, twigs and plastic containers tied intricately together. As apparently haphazard and disjointed as they were, these garden plots took on an artistic and cultural identity which was not only unusual for the inner city, but, if seen with an unprejudiced eye, was truly aesthetic as well.

1985: The National Guard stationed in Worcester delivered topsoil as part of EARTHMOVING (a program initiated by Boston urban Gardeners with the support of MA Department of Food and Agriculture, Suffolk County Extension and the City's Clean City and Beautification program)

1988: Responding both to a cry of help from the gardeners and to the urging of disgruntled abutters to the condition of the garden, Boston Urban Gardeners began the process of renovating and redeveloping the garden. The dialog between the diverse membership in the garden began again and a consensus was reached as to the most urgent needs:

- Land permanence and security of the garden

- Repair and installation of a working water system.

- Garden organizational support

The first Small Grant was awarded from the Boston Foundation Fund for Parks and Open Space. This enabled the installation of a plastic irrigation system, giving the gardeners access to on-site water for the first time in years. But more notably for the future of the garden, common need brought together the diverse individual members of the garden and

made possible its reorganization, so essential for its survival. With Boston urban Gardeners assistance, a new garden committee was formed that included both the Asian and Caucasian populations; successful efforts were made after many years to translate all communications into Chinese and have all important decisions reviewed by a committee of garden officers.

1989-1990: The Public Facilities Department awarded Boston Urban Gardeners Phase 1 GRASSROOTS contract. This began the serious efforts to renovate and upgrade the garden to a functioning and viable open space, paving the way for future designation to permanent open space status from the Boston Redevelopment Authority. Enormous efforts to stretch the funding beyond all conceivable possibilities (with volunteer labor and in-kind donations of materials, plants and landscaping services) in a single year transformed the garden from a health hazard to a vibrant greenspace. The light at the end of the tunnel was seen even by the most negative spokespersons in the neighborhood. The garden now had the possibility of permanence. The BRA challenged all of the gardens in the South End to form an organization that could own and manage their land. This resulted in the birth of the South End Lower Roxbury Open Space Land Trust (SELROSLT), which was able to establish permanent open space status for community gardens in the South End.

1989: A second Small Grant was awarded by the Boston Foundation, enabling the identity of the garden to be established. The design of a strong spine (or post pathway) concept punctuated by the artistic interpretation of a Chinese sign-gateway at the Shawmut Street end and an Arbor for wisteria and roses at Tremont Street marked the East /West concept of cultural connecting.

1990: The last Small Grant was awarded to establish a sculpture and planting beds in the central area of the garden that served as the meeting space. With the help of a local donation, money was set aside to select and plant evergreens for a winter garden in those planters.

1991: Public Facilities Dept. awarded Phase II GRASSROOTS. With this funding the promise to build and install new fencing (where all the former plot fencing had been removed) was realized. The model unit that had been installed the past season had served as a valuable incentive to the gardeners to help with the renovations themselves. The design of the individual plots was arrived at through a long and valuable community design process that served not only to develop a design concept for the garden renovation but also built a strong neighborhood constituency. Included in the process were the abutting neighborhood

associations and groups, the Boston Center for the Arts, the Quincy and Ellis Schools, community centers and public housing management and tenants groups from Castle Square. By the end of 1990, there was broad support that the garden remain 100% open space. This paved the way for the SELROSLT to vote to include the Berkeley street Garden for tentative inclusion until its final designation from the BRA. This was a giant step for permanence.

1991: 18 Ginko trees were installed along East Berkeley on the perimeter of the garden through the Public Facilities Departments Street Tree Program; marking yet another major investment on the part of the City of Boston to the garden.

1991: A formal relationship to the Parks and Recreation Department was established to ensure that a constant supply of woodchips would be available and delivered for landscaping beautification throughout the garden's pathways; also, a regular trash pick up would ensure proper maintenance standards and a positive appearance to the community at large.

1992: A PFD GRASSROOTS extension was awarded to complete the renovation of the entire garden. This allows for barrier free common areas, a thorough design process to complete the Master Plan for the garden, and the purchase of materials required for the designs for the final designation as permanent open space and transfer into the SELROSLT. A maintenance funding strategy and organizational structure have been finalized and current construction continues into its final phase.

PUBLIC NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The human potential for cooperative effort to sustain public open space should not be underestimated even with the language barrier and cultural, ethnic and economic diversity present within not only the garden but the community-at-large. The press recognized this, nationally as well as locally. The South End News covered the transformation of the garden as did The New York Times. The Today Show aired a piece focusing on intercultural community cooperation. There was interest and support from local Universities, schools and from national horticultural groups. In 1990, the Berkeley Street Garden received an award from The Massachusetts Horticultural Society. The amount and range of food produced in the garden can hardly be equalled; last year, the garden was recognized by the Dept. of Parks and Recreation for its diversity and productivity.

VOLUNTEER AND IN-KIND DONATIONS

The number of hands that continues to go into rebuilding this valuable community resource is literally in the tens of thousands over the past three years -- from public officials to support within the community of non-gardeners and volunteer groups like the JFK library Corps and CITY YEAR. The list is long and impressive: virtually every City department from Inspectional Services to Arts and Humanities has lent support and in some cases public employees actually worked at the site. The range of support from the private sector has spanned everything from thousands of dollars worth of flowering annuals delivered to the site to a full day with crew and equipment from a local landscaping company. Volunteers have come from many other sources: prison pre-release programs, other countries such as France and Africa, high schools colleges and universities. Lumber companies and hardware stores have offered discounted materials.

GARDEN MEMBERSHIP EXPANSION - DIVERSITY

The garden membership expanded as plots were cleaned and rejuvenated. The interest in the community expanded to school groups, The Living Center & the BCA. The garden boasts of a membership that truly is inclusive ethnically, economically, and intergenerationally: directly reflecting the neighborhood diversity from which it grew. This diversity is probably the garden's greatest strength and miracle.

GARDEN MANAGEMENT AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The management and responsibility for the maintenance of the garden has been fully assumed by the garden committee and the membership at large. The educational process that can guarantee a common standard and the constant communication of rules has been sustained. The garden has its own set of rules and procedures such as annual sign up and Spring and Fall clean-ups as well as regular plot fee requirements; in 1991, a set of City-wide garden rules were posted in Chinese, English and Spanish.

The gardeners themselves have initiated and continue to take responsibility for raising funds through the paying of annual membership fees, creative initiatives begun in 1990, e.g., ART

in THE GARDEN and other fundraising and publicity efforts. The garden has its own bank account

The Friends Of The Berkeley Community Gardens

THE BERKELEY STREET GARDEN AS A MODEL COMMUNITY GARDEN

Both unique and traditional, The Berkeley Street Garden is certainly a living monument to community gardening. The value of this garden is exemplary of a cohesive neighborhood effort, reflecting cultural diversity and intergenerational cooperative participation. It is not only a virtual botanical specimen, but an important resource as a food producing, recreational neighborhood facility; a park, an outdoor school in sociology, economics and botany. This tradition of public open space for private and general use is a phenomenon that is healthy in an all too destructive and ailing world.

Mail form below to: Friends of the Berkeley Gardens
P.O. Box 133
Hark Bay Street
Berkeley, CA 94707

Julie Stone
Garden Resource Manager



Yes, I would like to be a Friend of the Berkeley Gardens.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Contribution \$ _____ \$25 \$50 \$100 \$150 \$200

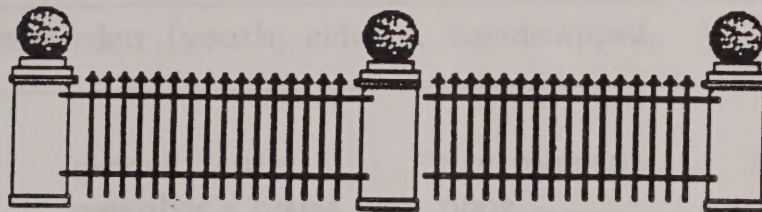
Please fill out as much of this as you can. Thank you very much!
This will help us get you the resources and assistance you may
need this year.

The Friends Of The Berkeley Community Gardens

The Berkeley Community Gardens were first planted in 1973. Since then, many South End families have enjoyed the countless bounty produced from this parcel of land. The Gardens are open to all, young and old.

The Friends of the Berkeley Gardens were formed to increase the number of people who would be a part of our "Community Commons." Join today and become involved in the renovation and restoration.

Mail form below to: Friends of the Berkeley Gardens
P. O. Box 185
Back Bay Annex
Boston, MA 02117



Yes, I would like to be a Friend of the Berkeley Gardens.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Contribution: \$5 _____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

Garden Survey - Spring 1986

Please fill out as much of this as you can. Thank you very much!
This will help us get you the resources and assistance you may need this year.

Name of garden Berkeley Gardens
Address of Site Between Shawmut & Tremont, bounded by E. Berkeley Ward Parcel No.

Is the garden affiliated with an agency, church or non-profit? NO

(if yes give name):

Coordinator or Contact Person: Charles Whitlock phone: 482-8953

Address: 41 Dwight St., Boston, MA

Owner of site: BRA Terms: rent: own: other:
lease (how long?):

Year site first gardened: 1976 Year group organized: 1976 Incorporated? NO

(name of corporation:)

Site(s) dimensions: feet x feet

No. of plots: 150 plot size: 10x15 No. of gardeners: 150 No. of plots in use: 150

Room for more plots? (how many?) NO

May we refer new gardeners to you this season? NO

Should we advertise for more gardeners for you in The BUG Newsletter? NO

How should new gardeners contact you? (phone at home, work or write?)

Special groups in garden (youth, elderly, handicapped, etc.):

Source of water: garden faucet fire hydrant (CITY)
neighbor's house none
other

Basic supplies (list what you have: fence, topsoil, tools, etc.): supplies owned individually

Needs (in order of priority): Survey, wood chips, manure,
backup for enforcement of garden policies

Special features on site (list benches, tables, barbeque pits, big rock, etc.): Community flower gardens corner Tremont/East Berkeley Streets

Do you want your garden site to be permanent? yes

Is it now threatened? yes

Other comments: We have suffered considerable fence and
water damage from the construction of
new water & sewer pipes on East Berkeley St.

BERKELEY GARDENS

April 5, 1986

Received for garden # 106 \$10.

I agree to abide by the rules set
by the Garden Committee.

General cleanup on _____.
Gardeners who do not participate
will lose garden privileges.

I agree not to use human waste
on gardens.

(Signature) _____

K E E P T H I S R E C E I P T

百家利園地

收到園地第 _____ 號租金十元。

本人同意遵從園委會之一切規則

園地總清理日期為 _____

(如不登而此項行動將受損失
使用該園地之權利)

不使用糞便洒在園地上

簽名 _____

一九八六年四月五日

(請保留此收據)

百家利菜園會議通告

定期六月九日(星期六)上午九時半,在本園內之花圃召開全體會員會議,仰各人依時參加為荷。

- ① 公佈一九九零年本園規例。
- ② 公告有關本菜園改建計劃,及圍欄先後等問題。
- ③ 在六月一日仍未開耕之地段,當作棄權,而在等待承耕之人,即日登記。
- ④ 該日有三十位大學學生志願參加助我清除垃圾,整建園內通道,及加設尚未完成之鐵線欄等,由上午十時半至下午四時止,務求各會員依時協助工作為盼。

百家利菜園管理委員會啟

IMPORTANT

IMPORTANT

IMPORTANT

IMPORTANT

On June 9 at 9:30 am., Berkeley Street Garden Association will have a general meeting for all gardeners. The meeting will be held at the garden.

A garden work day will follow the meeting and a lottery will be held to assign all vacant garden plots for Summer 1990.

SIGNATURE SERVICE
City Year at the Berkeley Street Community Garden

Friday, April 6, 1990

- Participants: 50 corps members
5 team leaders
volunteer translators: Wen-ti Tsen, Wai Ching Kwan
25-50 community gardeners
- Project: Spring garden clean-up and gardeners' annual plot sign-up
- Tasks:
- collect and bag all trash in the garden
 - paint fence posts on East Berkeley street side (black)
 - clear all debris and unusable fencing materials; load in trucks for removal
 - grade and rake central pathway; cover with woodchips
 - spread compost on low-lying and newly-created plots
- Supplies
and
Services:
- For garden sign-up:
- table and chairs
 - cash box
 - receipts
 - garden maps
 - signs
 - pens and paper
- For garden clean-up:
- BHA trucks for rubbish removal
 - 6-8 wheelbarrows
 - paint and brushes
 - 20 shovels
 - 15 spading forks
 - 15 hard rakes
 - tape measure
 - gloves and garbage bags

SIGNATURE SERVICE
City Year at the Berkeley Street Community Garden

Thursday, May 31, 1990

Participants 30 corps members
5 team leaders

Tasks:

- collect and bag all trash in the garden
- clear all debris and unusable fencing materials; haul to Shawmut Ave end of garden
- grade and rake central pathway; cover with woodchips
- remove weeds along Berkeley St perimeter and cover with wood chips
- install and staple wire fencing on model plot units
- dig post holes
- install posts along gateway paths
- cut 100 post tops to specification

Supplies

- BHA trucks for rubbish removal
- wheelbarrows
- shovels
- spading forks
- hard rakes
- tape measure & levels
- gloves and garbage bags
- power tools - generator, Makita cordless drills, Skil saws
- post hole diggers
- staple guns & staples
- wire fence
- extension cords

FRIDAY, 7-27-90

Dear Bill

Thank you for the tour you gave me of the Berkeley Street Garden.

I found your garden very interesting and the work you're doing on improvements (the new fencing and water system) equally so. The example of your garden has been very helpful as we make plans for our own water hookup in the future.

The exchange of flowers worked well for our garden - the ageratum were a welcome touch. Also, the Chinese basil is starting to feel at home in our Commo garden. As close neighbors, I hope that the Berkeley Street and the Warren-Clarendon Gardens can work together in the future for the mutual benefit of the gardens.

I enclose a list of names/addresses/phone numbers of a few of our gardeners in case you should need to contact us.

Thanks again —

Heleen Jore



GARDENING PLOTS AVAILABLE

to all South End Residents
at the Berkeley Street Community Garden

(East Berkeley Street between
Shawmut and Tremont)

Sign-up dates:

Friday, April 6 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
at the Tremont St. end of the garden

or

Saturday, April 7 from 10:00 to 12:00 am
backyard/basement of 41 Dwight Street

Rain or Shine!

(street parallel to E. Berkeley)

COME GROW WITH US!

BERKELEY COMMUNITY GARDENS

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

IN THE GARDENS SOUTH END OPEN STUDIOS

SEPTEMBER 22-23, 1990

10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

JOIN THE ARTISTS DISPLAYING THEIR WORKS ON THE FENCES OF THE BERKELEY COMMUNITY GARDENS. THE GARDENS WILL BE ALIVE WITH EXCITEMENT INCLUDING CHILDREN'S ART SHOW, PERFORMANCE, PRODUCE SALE AND BARBEQUE.

TABLE DISPLAY SPACE IS THREE FEET BY TEN FEET
CONTRIBUTION \$40.00

TO PARTICIPATE FILL IN THE FORM BELOW AND MAIL WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO:

**BERKELEY COMMUNITY GARDENS
548 TREMONT STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116**

ALL REPLIES NOT RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 8TH, 1990
WILL BE ASSESSED A LATE FEE OF \$10.00.

.....
Dealer's Name: _____

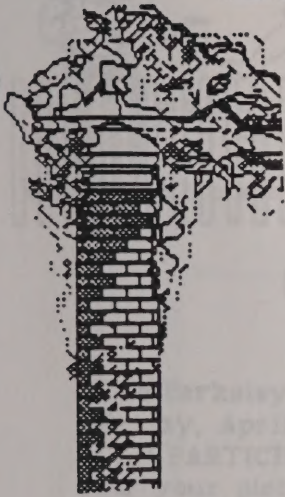
Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Merchandise Description: _____

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE FURTHER RENOVATION AND
PRESERVATION OF THE BERKELEY COMMUNITY GARDENS.**

Berkeley Community Gardens



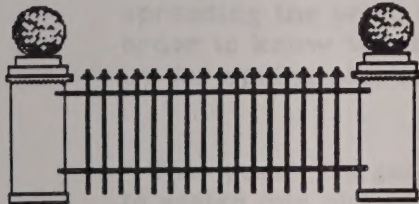
ART IN THE GARDENS (A FENCE SHOW)

SOUTH END OPEN STUDIOS
SEPTEMBER 22-23, 1990
10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

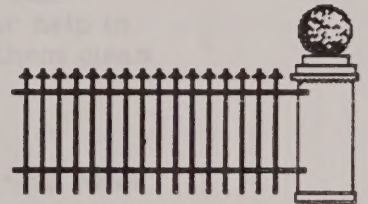
JOIN THE ARTIST DISPLAYING THEIR WORKS
ON THE FENCES OF THE BERKELEY COMMUNITY GARDENS.
THE BERKELEY GARDENS WILL BE ALIVE WITH EXCITEMENT...
INCLUDING CHILDREN'S ART SHOW, PERFORMANCE ART,
ANTIQUES, PRODUCE SALE AND BARBEQUE.

FENCE DISPLAY SPACE IS AT LEAST TEN FEET BY FIVE FEET
SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTION \$25.00

TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW AND
MAIL CONTRIBUTIONS TO:



BERKELEY COMMUNITY GARDENS
548 TREMONT STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116



ALL REPLIES NOT RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 8TH, 1990
WILL BE ASSESSED A LATE FEE OF \$10.00.

Artist's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Medium: _____

All proceeds go to the further renovation and preservation
of the Berkeley Community Gardens.



COMMUNITY GARDENERS!

The Berkeley Street Community Garden will have its SPRING CLEAN-UP on Friday, April 6th between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. ALL GARDENERS WHO CAN PARTICIPATE SHOULD COME. You will also be able to sign-up and pay for your plot at the clean-up.

If you are not able to come to the Spring clean-up, you may sign up for your plot and pay your dues on Saturday, April 7th between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon in the yard (or cellar, in case of rain) of Charles Whitlock, the garden president, 41 Dwight Street, next to the garden. The fee is \$10.00 per plot. There is a one plot per person limit.*

On Friday, April 6th, there will be over 50 young people from City Year, a community service organization, to help you clean your individual plots of all garden trash and broken fences. They will also be painting the fence along Berkeley Street and moving the compost (soil amendment that is in piles by the Shawmut street gate) to individual plots that need to be built up. They will be levelling (grading the land) along East Berkeley Street and possibly in the central pathway (if the new water system has been installed) and spreading the wood chips along the pathways. They will need your help in order to know what to remove from your plot! Please come help them clean up for spring planting.

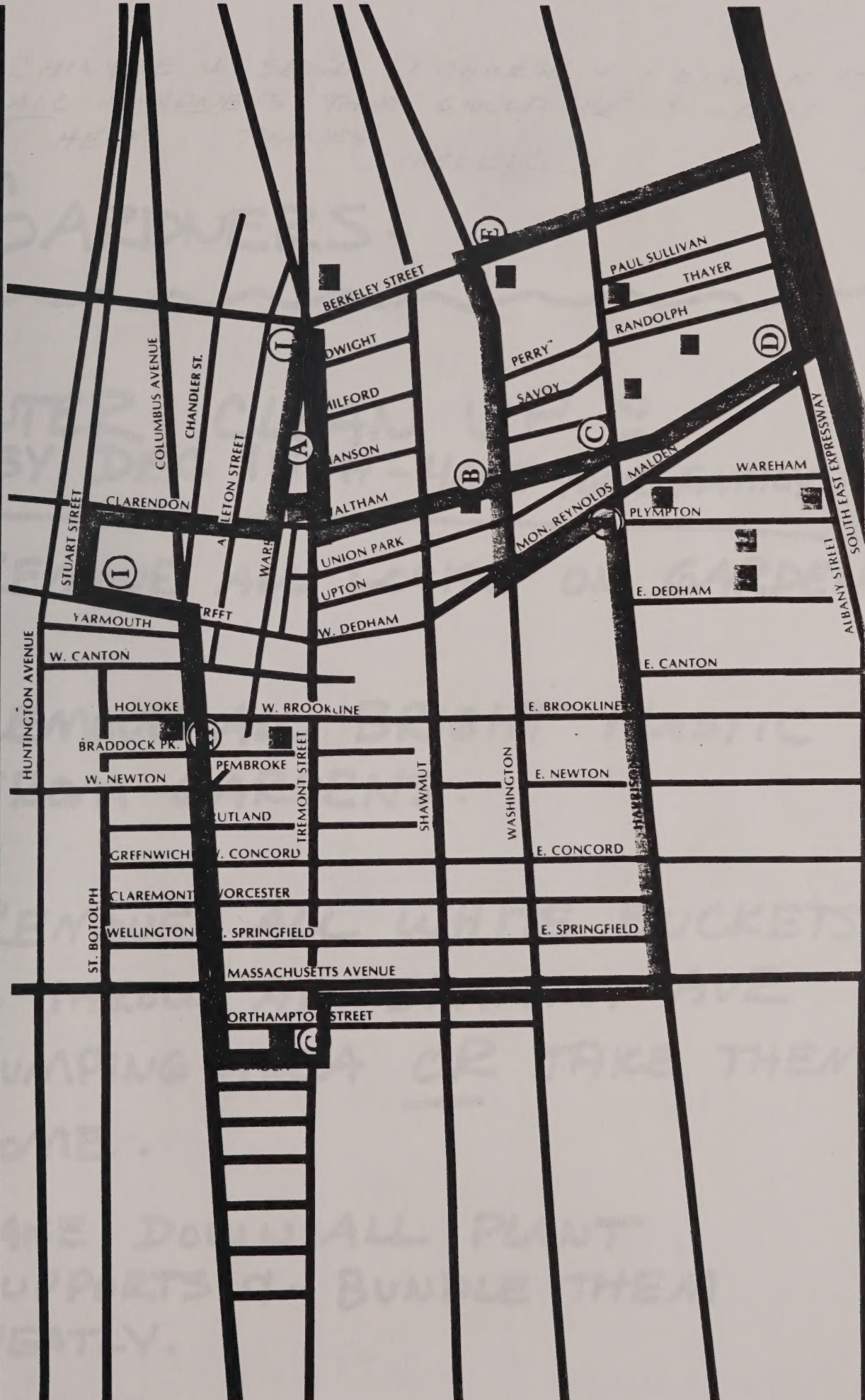
* This year, the garden has a waiting list for plots; therefore, we will have to assign one plot per person, then use up the waiting list before we can assign any new plots. Second plots will be temporarily distributed by lottery for 1990. If the demand for the garden plots is high in 1991, we will have to reassign the extra plots in 1991, again by lottery.

** Your plot fees are used to pay for the garden water, for membership in the South End Garden Project organization, for mailings and meeting notices, for clean-up supplies, for garden emergencies, and for garden improvements when affordable.

**PLEASE PLAN AHEAD
FOR THE GARDEN CLEAN UP AND PLOT SIGN UP
APRIL 6TH AND 7TH**

Map to South End Open Studios

Saturday & Sunday, September 22 & 23, 1990 • 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



SHUTTLE BUS ROUTE

CHINESE & SEND 1 CHINESE & 1 ENGLISH TO
ALL GARDENERS THAT WOULD BE A GREAT
HELP - THANKS. ROGER

GARDENERS -

WINTER CLEAN UP :
BY DEC 15TH - HAVE YOUR FAMILY HELP
YOU.

- ①. REMOVE ALL LOCKS ON GARDENS
- ②. REMOVE ALL BRIGHT PLASTIC FROM GARDENS.
- ③. REMOVE ALL WHITE BUCKETS & THROW AT SHANNUT AVE DUMPING AREA OR TAKE THEM HOME.
- ④. TAKE DOWN ALL PLANT SUPPORTS & BUNDLE THEM NEATLY.

THANK YOU: BERKELEY GARDEN COMMITTEE

BERKELEY COMMUNITY GARDENS

SPRING SIGN-UP

DATE: MARCH 30TH (SATURDAY) 1991

TIME: 12:00 NOON TO 2:00PM

WHERE: YWCA RESIDENCE
40 BERKELEY ST. BOSTON

GARDNERS MUST BRING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING
IDENTIFICATION

DRIVERS LIC. OR UTILITY BILL,
(TEL, GAS, ELECTRIC,)
OR GREEN CARD

NO GARDEN WILL BE ASSIGNED WITHOUT I.D.!

百家利菜園登記通告

定期: 三月三十日(星期六) 正午十二時至下午二時
辦理園地登記及交費

地點: 婦女青年會 40 BERKELEY ST. BOSTON

附註: 須要帶備一件有閣本身名字證明文件始
准登記

例如

駕車証 電話單 煤氣單
電打單 或 咭咭証 (綠咭)

百家利菜園管理處敬啓 March 20, 1991

季组灾未段少

UP

(UNPAID GARDEN)

BERKELEY COMMUNITY GARDENS

Berkeley Street Community Garden Plot Information Form

Number of garden plot: _____

Name of gardener: _____

Address: _____

Telephone numbers: _____ home

_____ work

Paid: _____

I agree to follow garden rules and participate in spring and fall garden
clean-ups.

BERKELEY COMMUNITY GARDENS

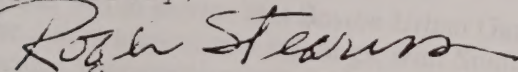
Ms. Janet Langsam
Boston Center for the Arts
539 Tremont Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Janet Langsam,

The Berkeley Garden Committee joins with the 8 Streets Neighborhood Association and other neighbors in support of the Boston Center for the Arts' proposal for grant funding for a sculpture garden at the Berkeley Street end of the B. C. A.

This parcel was greatly improved during the summer of 1990 with planting, maintenance and ongoing art works. As artists and community gardeners sharing and trying to improve common space in a city setting, we welcome this addition, which will continue to enhance the unique quality of life in the South End.

Sincerely,



Roger Stearns
Berkeley Garden Committee

February 1, 1991



Boston Urban Gardeners at the Community Farm
46 Chestnut Avenue, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 (617) 522-1259

January 14, 1991

Stephanie Bothwell
City of Boston Public Facilities Department
15 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Dear Ms. Bothwell:

I am writing to update you on our most recent discussions regarding the status of the Berkeley Street Community Garden.

On December 21, I talked on the telephone at length with Tom O'Malley, the BRA's Assistant Director for Neighborhood Housing and Development. Mr. O'Malley began by stating that the BRA formally accepted and implemented the recommendations of BUG's 1988 South End Open Space Needs Assessment, including the sixty per cent. open space/forty per cent. housing formula for Berkeley Street. He said that the BRA, not the Assessment's authors, ultimately makes the decision to alter any of the recommendations.

On the other hand, Mr. O'Malley continued, the BRA has expressed its willingness to engage in a deliberative process, in view of the expressions of support by local resident organizations for one hundred per cent. open space at Berkeley. The special study district status that the BRA established for Berkeley mandates a sixty-day comment period, at the end of which the question is not necessarily resolved. He said that the BRA's final decision will come after the housing development, open space and urban design issues have been fully aired.

My response was to pledge that Boston Urban Gardeners at the Farm would sit down, one on one and in community meetings, with South End affordable housing and open space advocates and organizations, and try to reach a consensus to present back to our respective constituencies and to the BRA. Mr. O'Malley replied that he would forthwith have a letter drafted to Patrick McGuigan of PFD, stating that from the BRA's point of view a public process is in place that will fairly resolve the issues around the Berkeley parcel, and that the BRA had no objection to PFD proceeding with its own Grassroots contract approval process for proposed Phase II improvements to Berkeley, so as to permit timely continuation of the rebuilding of the gardens if the community decision and the BRA's is to permit one hundred per cent. open space. Maria Faria of the BRA called me a week after the conversation with Tom O'Malley to say she is drafting that letter.

Julie Stone of the BUG at the Farm staff talked one on one with South End affordable housing advocates before and after December 21, stating the open space advocates' case and listening to the housing advocates' concerns. On January 4, Julie, Charlotte Kahn and I attended a meeting at the South End Neighborhood Action Program office, convened by Pat Cusick and attended by an aide to Rep. Byron Rushing, a member of the South End/Lower Roxbury Land Trust Board, a staffperson from Tenants' Development Corporation, and Val Hyman of United Development Corporation.

Mr. Cusick eloquently stated his position, that SNAP could not give up the option to build housing on Berkeley Street, so long as it represented one of the only currently available large tracts in the South End. He declared his support for open space but said that production of affordable housing is his top priority.

Charlotte Kahn explained that the BUG 1988 Needs Assessment used a nationally accepted urban design standard for open space per thousand residents as a recommendation for a liveable South End. The South End's current stock of open space is severely deficient by this standard, she said. She added that current demographics predict growth in the South End's population through the turn of the century, growth that will demand both new open space and new housing if the South End is to offer a decent quality of life. A focus on any single tract of land for housing or open space, rather than on the whole picture, is bound to be too narrow for good urban planning.

Mr. Cusick, Mr. Hyman and the TDC representative then opened up the question of other large tracts in the South End, first the one across from Tent City, second the land owned by New England Nuclear Corporation, and third the many parcels owned by the Archdiocese of Boston. The current status of each was discussed, as were obstacles to and arguments in favor of their availability for affordable housing development.

Both open space and housing advocates restated their mutual support for and interest in each other's priorities, and their willingness to work together to find more land for both housing and open space. The historic collaboration of housing and open space partisans was fondly recalled, and it became apparent that a narrow focus on Berkeley Street would lead only to a collision of interests.

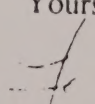
Mr. Cusick took special note of the recent Castle Square Tenants Organization's letter advocating 100% open space at Berkeley, in view of both the organization's strong support for affordable housing and the very direct impact any development at Berkeley will have on the densely populated Castle Square neighborhood. It was pointed out that PFD's investment in the garden was seen by Castle Square and other area tenants' groups as creating real momentum for improvement of the entire neighborhood, not just the garden. Mr. Cusick responded with interest to Ms. Kahn's proposal that we consider a moratorium of five years on housing development at Berkeley. It was suggested that if at the end of the moratorium a decision is made to build housing on forty per cent. of the site, then that housing must be affordable to current residents.

It was then reported that Mr. Khoury, the South End businessman who has expressed interest in building affordable housing on the Berkeley land, is also discussing other possible sites, and it was suggested that the coalition we have reestablished here could help him in his search for appropriate sites.

The meeting closed with an agreement that Mr. Cusick would call together a meeting of BUG at the Farm and SNAP at the BRA to convey directly our request that a broad look at all potentially available land in the South End be undertaken in order to assemble a fair and public consensus on the percentage of open space that will remain on the Berkeley Street tract.

We are pleased with the progress being made in resolving the Berkeley issue and hope that PFD can keep up the momentum at its end so that continuation of improvements to the garden remains a current option.

Yours truly,


Leroy G. Stoddard, Director

April 12, 1991

Dear Julie,

Enclosed please find a copy of my invoice. I hope it works all right.
By the way, Roger told me that my name was given to him from you, and I
was just wondering if you heard about me from Nancy Wang who is my
mother-in-law. Anyway, I really enjoyed working as an interpreter and I
had a great time there. Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Yili Cao

Yili Cao

74 Christopher Rd
Waltham, MA
02154

百家利菜園通告

定期清除垃圾 登記明年耕地

定期九月二十三日(星期六)上午九時至下午四時,該日若遇下雨,則改在二十四日舉行。仰各耕戶大家熱心踴躍參加,將園內垃圾清除,否則可能導致市政府向該園,則悔之晚矣。同日携備你們的地址及耕地號碼,登記明年承耕使用,希為知照。

清除垃圾之日,有公車載運垃圾,及有志愿免費的熱心人士協助工作,他人做到代勞,何況我們是該菜園耕戶直接關係人,故再三請求,凡我耕戶至時務須一齊參加工作為要。

如有詢問可電話

PRESIDENT: CHARLES WHITLOCK 482-8953
COORDINATOR: RALPH YEE 426-7166

BOSTON URBAN JULIE STONE 423-7497
GARDENERS

**OUR
COMMUNITY
GARDEN
COOKBOOK**

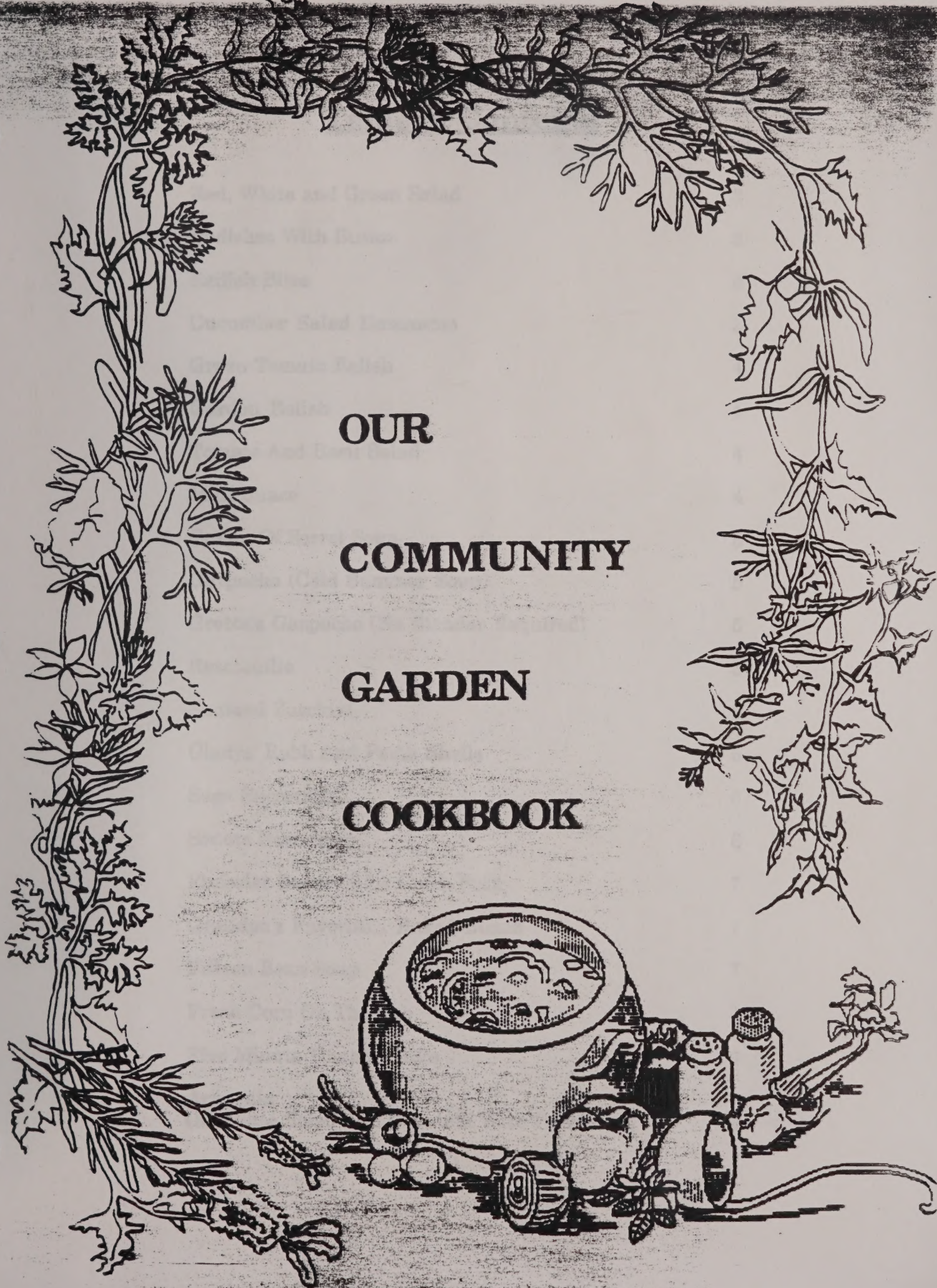


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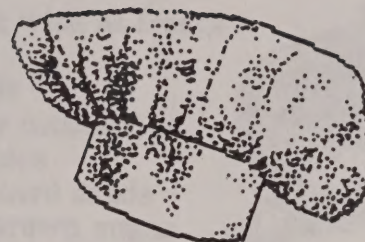
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RED, WHITE AND GREEN SALAD

Buttercrunch or Iceberg lettuce, chopped fine
Gypsy sweet red pepper, diced fine
Icicle radish, chopped fine
Scallions, chopped fine
Celery, chopped fine
Seasoned salt or celery salt.

Toss with wine vinegar and olive oil.



RADISHES WITH BUTTER

Bunch of fresh radishes
1/2 lb. sweet whipped butter
salt

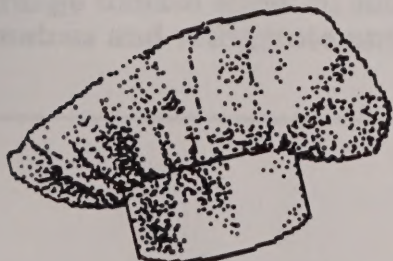
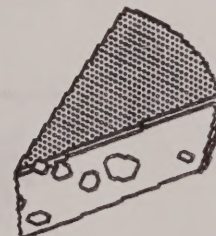
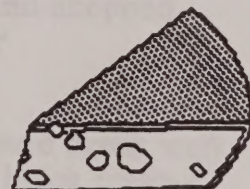
Slice radishes in spirals so they can be buttered. Serve with pate and dark pumpernickle.

RADISH BITES

6-8 large radishes
4 slices thin black bread
1/4 pound (125g) sweet butter or ripe Camembert or Brie cheese

Spread each slice of bread thickly with butter, or cheese, and cut each into four square pieces. Thinly slice the radishes and press into the butter or cheese.

(yields 16 pieces)



CUCUMBER SALAD DAMASCUS

1 1/2 cucumbers
1/4 cup yoghurt
1/2 clove of garlic
2 tbsp. chopped chives
tsp. chopped mint

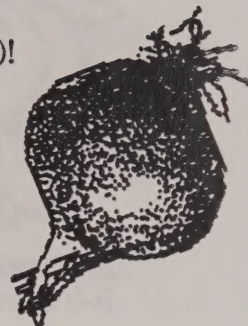
Slice cucumber thinly. Peel garlic and crush in garlic press, and stir into yoghurt. Stir cuke and yoghurt mixture together. Salt and pepper, sprinkle with chives and mint. Serve cold.

GREEN TOMATO RELISH

(To use up all the green tomatoes you're stuck with at frost)!

4 lbs. green tomatoes (chopped 8-cups)
1 tsp. freshly ground pepper
1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1 1/2 tsp. ground cloves
1 qt. cider vinegar
2 sweet red or green peppers chopped

1/2 cup of salt
1 1/2 tsp. dry mustard
1/2 tsp. allspice
1/2 cup mustard seeds
1 cup light brown sugar
1 chopped onion



Mix together with salt, cover and let stand 24 hours or overnight. Wash in cold water and drain. Mix the rest of the ingredients in a pot, add tomatoes and bring to a boil. Cook gently 15 minutes. Spoon into hot, **STERILIZED** jars having 1/8" headspace and seal.

Canning process in boiling water bath 10 minutes.

GARDEN RELISH



4 Tomatoes, peeled and quartered
1 green pepper, seeded and chopped
1 rough-sliced cucumber
1/2 chopped onion

Put thru a food chopper and drain well.
Add salt, celery salt and black pepper
Chill and serve.

TOMATO AND BASIL SALAD

1 large Beefsteak tomato
6 leaves of fresh basil
1/3 cup vinaigrette dressing



Arrange tomato slices on salad plates. Sprinkle with basil. Pour vinaigrette over tomatoes and refrigerate until ready to dine.

MINT SAUCE

1/2 cup w. vinegar
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup minced fresh mint leaves

Put vinegar and sugar in small pan. Heat until it boils and the sugar dissolves. Pour hot sauce over mint and let stand one hour. Serve with lamb, new potatoes and peas.

CREAM OF SORREL SOUP

- 2 10 oz. cans cream of potato soup
- 2 soup cans of milk
- 4 tbsp. butter
- 1 cup French sorrel, coarsely chopped

Combine, and bring to boiling point, stirring all the time, to prevent scorching. When the mixture is ready to boil remove from the heat and strain. Serves 5-6.



GAZPACHO (COLD SUMMER SOUP)

- 1 cup tomato juice
- 1 cup consomme (cold)
- 6 drops tobasco sauce
- 4 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 3 tbsp. lemon juice

Put the first 6 ingredients in a blender, cover, set at high speed for one minute. Cut 1 tomato, 5 scallions, 1 cucumber into thumbnail pieces and place in individual bowls with ice cubes. Pour blender mixture over and remove ice cubes. Serve immediatly, or prepare ahead and refrigerate. Serves 2.

GRETTA'S GAZPACHO (NO BLENDER REQUIRED)

- 1 chilled can V-8 juice
- 4 cherry tomatoes, chilled and halved
- 1 cucumber, chilled and sliced
- 1 green pepper, chipped, seeded and chopped
- 2 scallions, chilled and sliced

Put chilled vegetables in soup plates, and pour can of chilled V-8 juice over it. Serves 2



RATATOUILLE

- 1/3 cup olive oil
- one mudium onion, chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic crusehd
- 1 medium eggplant, peeled and CUBED

- 1 green pepper, seeded and chopped
- 3 tomatoes, peeled and chopped
- 1/2 cup of water
- 2 medium zucchini sliced
- 1 Tbsp. fresh parsely

Heat oil, and sautee onion & garlic 5 min. over low heat. Add remaining ingredients, stir several times, cover and simmer 45 min., stirring occasionally. Serves 6-8 Excellent for picnics cold. 5.

SAUTEED ZUCCHINI (SERVES 4)

2 Tbsp. olive oil (or 3-4 Tbsp. butter)
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 lb. zucchini, 1/2" slices
salt and pepper

Heat oil in skillet, add garlic, then zucchini. Cook over low heat until squash till tender (10 min.) **OR ADD:**

1/3 cup sliced scallions
or: parsley, chives, basil
or: 1 Tbsp. thyme leaves
or: 1/2tsp. dried thyme
1/2 tsp. oregano leaves
or: 1/4 tsp. dried oregano



GLADYS' RAAB AND PASTA SHELLS

Use fresh pasta (if you don't make it yourself, and boil until al dente.
Heat garlic and oil (Agli Olio) and pour over the flowering sprouts and leaves of raab, after boiling until tender.

NOTE: Raab is a sort of non-heading broccoli with a strong mustardy bite.

SAGE SUCCOTASH

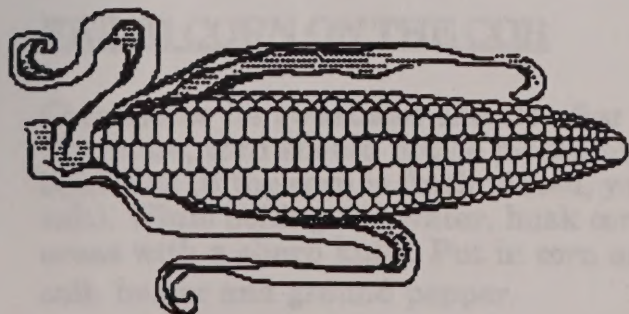
2 1/2 cups cooked lima beans
1 1/2 cups cooked corn kernals
1/2 cup milk
1/4 cup sage
1/2 tsp. salt
2 Tbsp. butter
freshly ground pepper

Drain beans, combine ingredients and heat.



SENATE BEAN SOUP

1 cup of navy beans, soaked overnite
Drain, then simmer with ham for an hour. Then add mashed potato to make it thick, add chopped onion, celery and garlic and simmer another hour. Add salt and pepper to taste.



FLAGEOLET BEANS (A LA CROCKPOT)

1 lb. dried flageolets
2 cups chicken broth
3 cups of water
1 onion chopped
1 bay leaf

pinch of thyme
pinch of rosemary
1 tsp. of salt



Put all ingredients in a crock pot, cover and cook on low for 8-10 hours. Serves 8

GRANDPA'S FAVORITE... BAKED BEANS



1 lb dry kidney beans
1/8 lb. salt pork
1 oz. brown sugar
1/4 cup molassas
1 medium onion, peeled and quartered
(optional)
1/2 tsp. dry mustard
1/8 tsp. pepper
1/2 tsp. salt.



Soak the beans overnight, or for eight hours./ Drain, and put in a one or two qt. bean pot or crock, and add everything else. adding water until ingredients are covered. Cover pot and set to bake at 250 degrees for eight hours. Serves 8

FIFTEEN BEAN SOUP

Use a handful of mixed dry beans for each serving required, as this will bulk up double after soaking in salted water overnight. Drain and add cups of water, ham or chopped smoked sausage rings, and bring to a boil. Simmer slowly 2 1/2 or 3 hours, adding water as need. Add chopped onion, chopped red pepper, and summer savory (or oregano) and simmer another 30 minutes. Salt and pepper to taste.

This makes a hearty one-dish meal for frosty winter evenings.

FRESH CORN ON THE COB

Corn loses its sweetness shortly after it's picked as the sugars turn to starch. Therefore, corn should not be picked until you're ready to eat. Bring water to a brisk boil (if the corn is fresh-picked, you don't **NEED** to put in sugar, milk or even salt). While boiling the water, husk corn and pull off silk, and cut out damaged areas with a sharp knife. Put in corn and cover pot boiling 5 minutes. Serve with salt, butter and ground pepper.



5 MINUTE TOMATO SAUCE

Place in a heavy skillet one finely chopped garlic clove (or one onion), add 1 Tbsp. of olive oil and sautee until golden brown, add 4 medium size, ripe peeled and diced tomatoes, 1 Tbsp. of finely chopped basil.

Bring to a boil, stirring occasionally. Cook for 5 minutes, uncover (don't cook ripe tomatoes more than five minutes or they lose their sweetness. Serve on spaghetti.

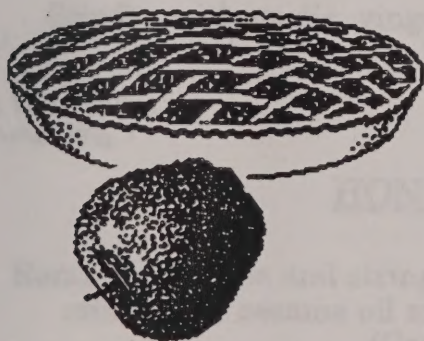
ARRUGULA (ROQUETTE SALAD AND CAVATELLI WITH PARMESAN

4-6 cups of arrugula, washed and dried and torn into 1" pieces
1/2-1 stick of butter
1/2-1 cavatelli (spiral pasta) cooked
1 cup grated Parmesan or Romano cheese
freshly ground pepper



Cook the pasta ahead of time and have everything ready. Keep pasta hot. Melt butter in large skillet, and add arrugula and cook over medium heat until thoroughly wilted. Add pasta and toss, add cheese and toss until coated, add pepper and serve hot.

SCOLLOPED POTATOES WITH BACON



4-medium potatoes
2 cups of milk, or 1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 onion
butter
bacon strips
freshly ground pepper and cracker crumbs

Scrub, pare and slice potatoes thinly. Place layer of potato slices and chopped onion in buttered baking dish. Sprinkle each layer with salt and pepper and dots of butter. Top with crushed cracker crumbs. Add milk to cover. Top with layer of bacon strips. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 1 1/2 hours, until potatoes are tender, and bacon is crisp.

STIR FRY OF ORIENTAL VEGETABLES

with illustrations by Gretta M. Norton

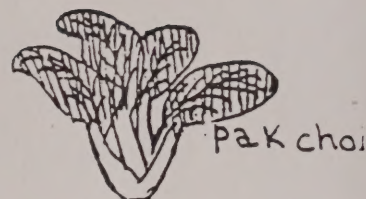
Chop food in small pieces and fry quickly in a little oil stirring constantly. Never put large amount of food in the wok-4 servings should be enough, containing no more than 3/4-1 lb.. of diced or chopped meat.

Bok Choy- (pak choi)

In stir-fry wok dishes, first put ribs of plant, cut in 1" lengths, for a minute or two, then put in leaves, cut in large pieces, stirring constantly in the oil. Rich in vitamin C, minerals and fibre.



HINN
CHOI



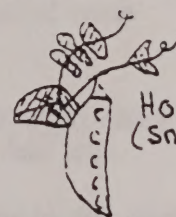
pak choi



Tan Ho choi

DOW GAUK- (yard long bean)

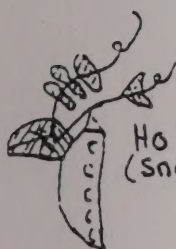
Break in 2" lengths, stir-fry with Bok choy, shredded pork and sliced mushrooms.



Ho Lohn dow
(snow pea)

HINN CHOY- (amaranth)

Stir-fry with garlic, ginger, grated radish, pork, soy sauce, and lemon. Colorful leaves reminiscent of coleus in appearance.



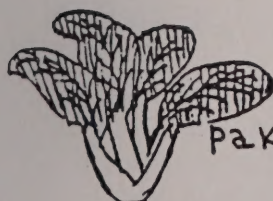
Ho Lohn dow
(snow pea)

HON LON DOW-(snow peas)

Remove the ends and strings of snow pea pods, wash, drain and stir-fry 2-3 minutes in sesame oil and toss with soy sauce and then add shrimp. (Cook as soon as it is picked).

High in Vitamin C, but calories only 1/3 that of garden peas

DOW GAUK
yard - long
(Bean)



pak choi

TAN O' (garland edible chrysanthemum)

Stir-fry with bamboo shoots, snow peas, bean sprouts, shredded pork or chicken, in sesame oil, with soy sauce.



Tan Ho choi



HINN
CHOI



FILLED ZUCCHINI BLOSSOMS

Submitted by Alan R. Biagiotti

"A Friend of the Berkeley Community Gardens"

It is with great pleasure and an honor to share with the patrons of the Berkeley Community Gardens and the readers of this cookbook my Grandmother, Amarisa Dini's recipe for filled zucchini blossoms.

As with most great cooks of generations past the specific quantities of each ingredient was not always noted. So is the case here.

Early in the day, when the blossoms are open, pick them. Rinse in cool water and remove the stamen and turn upside down on a towel to dry (Stem end up).

Depending on your own personal taste and the quantity of blossoms to fill combine the following ingredients:

*

Peel and cook potatoes. Then mash.

To the mashed potatoes add:

Parsely, minced garlic, parmesan cheese,
salt and pepper and one slightly beaten egg to hold all.

*

Fill the blossoms with this mixture and fold
the points over forming a flat bottom.

(Do this carefully...the blossoms are very fragile).

Continue to fill till all blossoms are done.

Place on a plate or flat surface. Refrigerate till chilled.

*

Make an egg wash by beating 1-2 eggs
add a very small amount of milk.

Dip filled blossoms in flour then in the egg mixture.

Fry in a good quality olive oil till golden brown
taking great care when handling. Serve warm

*

"Make your own gastronomical memories from this old Tuscan tradition"

MINT JULEP

2 tsps. simple sugar syrup (1 cup sugar, 1/2 cup of water, heated until clear)
6 mint leaves

Mash together, add ice, a dash of Angostura bitters and one large jigger of sour mash whiskey.

Blend all together and garnish generously with fresh mint sprigs.

Note: This is a great way to keep the mint in the garden from getting out of hand!



TWO-BERRY AMBROSIA

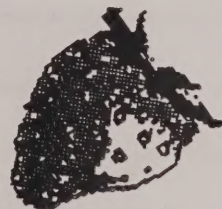
1 pint of raspberries
1 pint of strawberries, hulled
1 pint seedless grapes
2 cups freshly shredded coconut

Turn into a bowl and toss together

STEWED RHUBARB

1 lb. rhubarb stalks
1/2 cup sugar
1 tsp. grated lemon rind

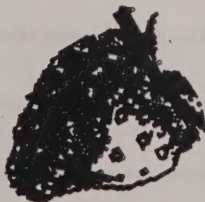
Trim off all of the leaves, wash, and cut the stalks into pieces. Put into a heavy-bottomed saucepan with the other ingredients, and cook gently 5-7 minutes.



BLACK-RASPBERRY TART

Small precooked tart shells or 9" pie shell

1 cup granulated sugar
3 Tbsp. cornstarch
1/4 tsp. salt
3/4 cup orange juice
1 Tbsp. lemon juice



1 qt. black raspberries or strawberries
1 cup heavy cream
Confectioner's sugar

Combine ingredients in a saucepan and cook over low heat, stirring constantly till thickened then cook for 10 minutes. Spoon into bowl to cool. Fill tart shells with berries and cover with cornstarch mixture, and top with whipped cream.

YOUR PERSONAL RECIPIES AND NOTES

Our sincere thanks to

Kath G. Blanton

owner

St. Joseph's Printing Center

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Our sincere thanks to

Keith G, Biagiotti

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Sir Speedy Printing Center

260 Elm Street

Somerville, MA. 02144

617-628-3340

For donating both the materials

and the printing

of

"Our Community Garden Cookbook"

REGULATIONS FOR GARDENERS

ALL GARDENERS AT THE BERKELEY ST. COMMUNITY GARDEN

Come to a MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30th at 6.00PM. in the GARDEN

We have GOOD NEWS for you. Through a grant from the City of Boston we have some money to improve your garden. Come and help decide what you want to do with this funding. Fencing repairs, water repairs, trash removal better security and a cleaner more beautiful garden for all to see?

We need you to get involved and to take responsibility for improving your garden.

We are planning a gardeners clean-up with help from your south end neighborhood association and other volunteers in late September. (September 23rd, raindate the 24th. On that Saturday or Sunday we will clean up the garden and remove all trash, prune trees and all weeds from around the entire garden. If you want a plot next year you must help at the clean-up

COME TO THE GARDEN MEETING and find out about the clean-up and let us know what is important to you to change and improve.

For more information call your Garden Coordinator or the garden President or Boston Urban Gardeners

President: Mr. Charles Whitlock 482-8953
Coordinators: Mr Yee 426-7166

Boston Urban Gardeners: Julie Stone 423-7497 / 1989

REGULATIONS FOR GARDENS

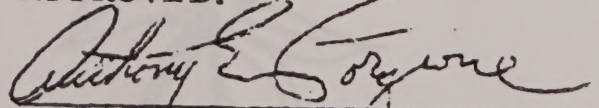
1. Gardens must always be clean and free from weeds; this includes any walk adjacent to or bordering any section of a garden. Grass must be trimmed or mowed within limits of your assigned plot of ground.
2. Organic garden refuse not to be used as compost, must be placed in designated dump areas. Under no conditions is any waste matter to be placed in the fringe areas. (ie: weeds, removed plants, etc).
3. Corner posts shall not be over 30" high.
4. Each group of stakes must be uniform in height and size. They must be 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" x 30" stake with 15" reveal, painted dark green. Please, no unsightly structures.
5. Produce that has reached maturity must be harvested. As soon as plants, notably corn and beans, have ceased to bear they must be immediately removed.
6. Dogs are not permitted in or near gardens.
7. Visitors to your garden in your absence, should be provided with means of identification in the form of a card or note with your signature.
8. Please respect the rights of others. Accept any suggestions or requests of department officials. Above all, it is essential that visitors in the area be treated with the utmost courtesy.
9. Everyone, with the exception of department officials, must be out of the garden area within one hour after sundown.
10. Every garden must be thoroughly cleaned in the Fall. All wires and stakes, except four corner posts are to be removed from the garden.

VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE ABOVE, AFTER DUE WARNING, WILL RESULT IN FORFEITURE OF YOUR GARDEN. TO SOMEONE WILLING TO COOPERATE.

DRUG PRODUCING PLANTS ARE PROHIBITED. GROWERS OF SUCH PLANTS WILL FORFEIT THEIR GARDENS AND WILL BE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION. PERIODIC INSPECTIONS WILL BE MADE OF GARDENS TO DETERMINE IF SUCH PLANTS ARE BEING GROWN.

ANY GARDENER FOUND TO BE USING HIS PLOT, IN ANY WAY, FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES WILL BE RELIEVED OF HIS PLOT AND LOSE ALL RIGHT AS A GARDENER IN THE AREA.

APPROVED:


COMMISSIONER OF PARKS AND
RECREATION

April 15 1975
DATE

All Berkeley Street Community Gardeners and Neighbors:

There will be a garden plot sign-up and major garden clean-up on Saturday, September 23 (raindate: September 24), from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All gardeners need to come in order to sign-up to reserve their plot for next year or to get a plot if they are new garden members.

All gardeners must help with the clean-up to remove weeds and unwanted material from the garden. Boston Urban Gardeners has arranged for a donated dumpster from Browning-Ferris Industries and City of Boston Department of Public Works trucks to move all the waste, old boards, and debris. Earthscape, a landscape contracting company, has donated a small front loader called a Bobcat to lift the big piles of garbage into the dumpster.

There will also be help from many volunteers to carry, lift and put waste into garbage bags and load in onto the dumpster. Free T-shirts and gloves will be provided by the City.

Please attend this very important meeting and workday -- help make this day a great success! It is everyone's responsibility. Without the gardeners working together, THERE CAN BE NO GARDEN ON BERKELEY STREET.

If you have any questions please contact your garden president, your coordinators or Julie at Boston Urban Gardeners.

President: Mr. Charles Whitlock 482-8953

Coordinators: Mr. Ralph Yee 426-7166
Barbara Anderson

Boston Urban
Gardeners: Julie Stone 432-7497



百家利菜園會議通告

定期八月三十日(星期三)下午六時在本園召集全体耕戶會議,仰各人依時蒞臨提供意見以利推行。

- 1,有關本園的修理,補修圍欄,及水利等。
- 2,並定於九月二十三日清除園內一切垃圾,該日如遇天降下雨則改在二十四日舉行,凡欲以後仍繼續保有此菜園存在,必須大家熱心負責清除,以免市民以污染藉口導致市府封閉該菜園。
- 3,如欲知更詳情訊息,請撥電話;

PRESIDENT: MR. CHARLES WHITLOCK 482-8953
COORDINATORS: MR. YEE 426-7166

BOSTON URBAN GARDENERS: JULIE STONE 423-7497

白家利菜園春季清潔通告
 俾我耕戶為熱心參加清理！

(一)

定期四月

(六日) (七日)

(星期五) (星期六)

上午十時至下午四時
 上午十時至正午十二時

該兩天有六十多名熱心人士前來助我清理園內垃圾，移生身
 為耕者，應該時親自到園共同工作，以見市民藉口苦訴市在
 謂此地太過骯髒。

(二)

每戶准承耕一幅地，改年組拾元，亦在五月六日及七日兩天至園
 內交費，如遇下雨則改在付街四十號屋後（近圍電）繳示，

倘逾期不納，縱然憑證登記亦決不保留，即將未交費之戶，
 毀耕給主等待，人租用特此聲明。

改收之園組係在納水費，郵費及修理費，然仍不敷支之數，
 甚巨，而且年年水費實昂，望各戶勿誤，因以維心家利益。

(三)

未備疏通之土地，不得栽植任何蔬菜，因阻碍交通，一律拆除，

並要耕者，牽索他人快起用水，大家概不同情，眾目睽睽，為
 勿違犯。

(四)

凡不雅觀之爛板桶等之類，切勿以作園園，有礙觀瞻，請自行
 除，否則必為拆下，一律地主收，預告如照。

(五)

今後如遇頑童損壞，或違例取菜者，務請大家一齊停止，其
 重橫，或呼警察，即伸張公道，以收守望互助之效。

一九零年三月二十日

白家利菜園謹啟

Appendix 3

South End Demographics

POPULATION & HOUSING PROFILE

U.S. CENSUS 5771, 1990

Map Series
Map No. 10000000

with 20,000,000 at
South End, including 20,000 & 20,000

South End, including 20,000 & 20,000
South End, including 20,000 & 20,000

South End, including 20,000 & 20,000
South End, including 20,000 & 20,000
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South End, including 20,000 & 20,000

South End, including 20,000 & 20,000

City of Boston
Department of Planning

South End, including 20,000 & 20,000
South End, including 20,000 & 20,000

South End, including 20,000 & 20,000
South End, including 20,000 & 20,000

South End, including 20,000 & 20,000

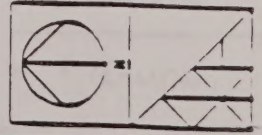
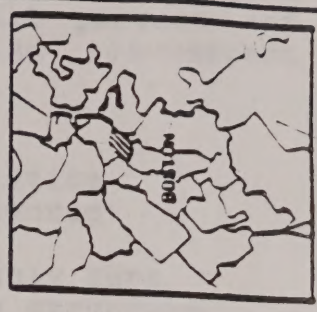
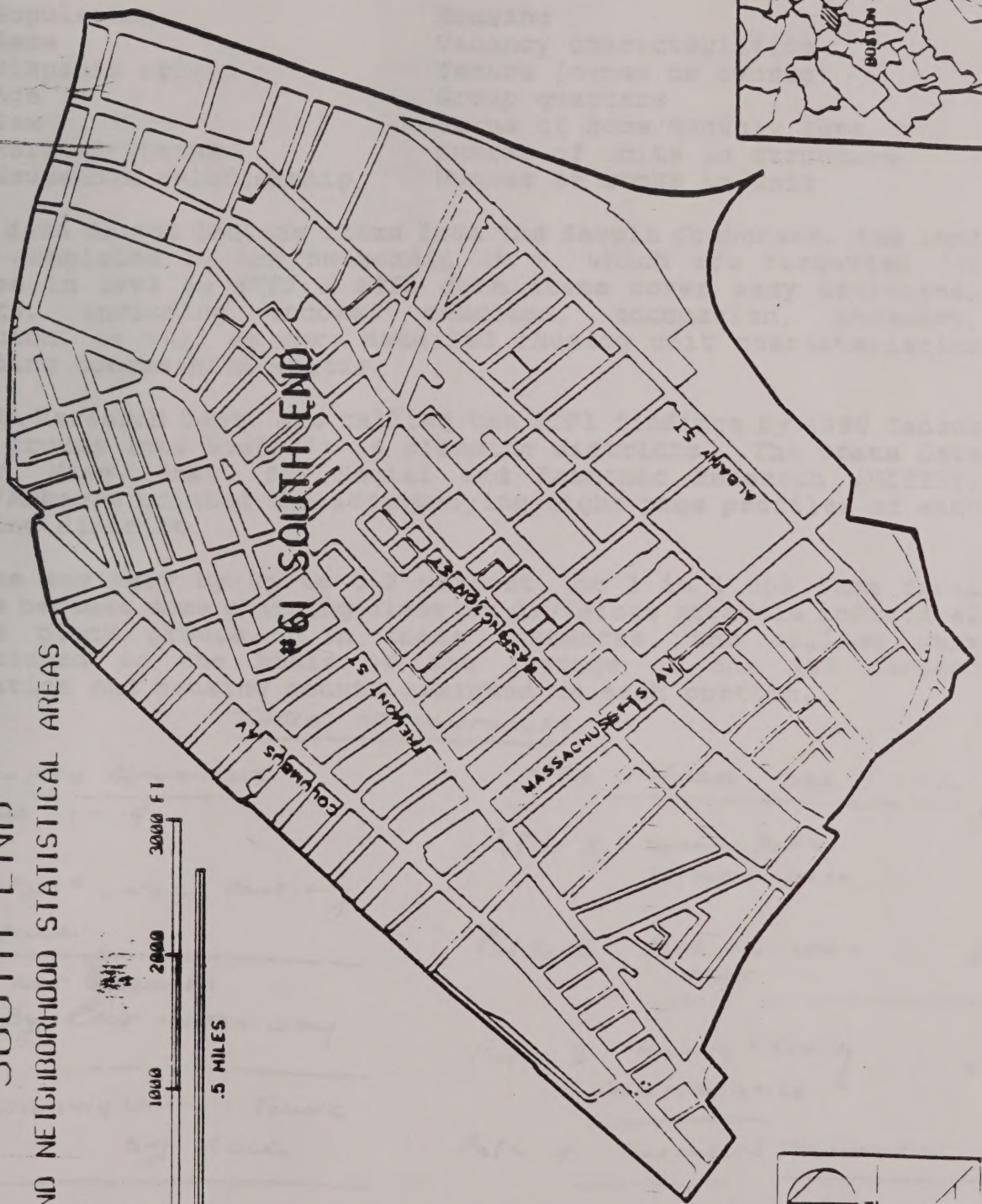
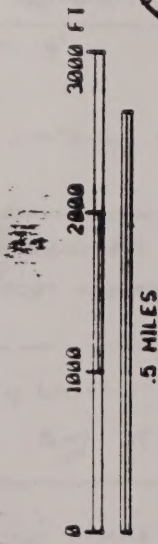
South End, including 20,000 & 20,000
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South End, including 20,000 & 20,000
South End, including 20,000 & 20,000

H. Johnson

SOUTH END**POPULATION & HOUSING PROFILE****U.S. CENSUS STF1, 1990****Rolf Goetze
Mark R. Johnson****with the assistance of:
Bizhan Azad, Rhonda Bolling & Greg Perkins****Boston Redevelopment Authority
Policy Development & Research Department****Assisted by State Data Center
Massachusetts Institute for
Social and Economic Research
University of Massachusetts/Amherst****November 1, 1991***→ January 2, 1992 ← Amended***City of Boston**
Raymond L. Flynn, Mayor**Boston Redevelopment Authority**
Stephen Coyle, Director**Gregory W. Perkins, Acting Assistant Director**
Policy Development & Research**Boston Redevelopment Authority Board Members****Clarence J. Jones, Chairman**
Michael F. Donlan, Co-Vice Chairman
Francis X. O'Brien, Co-Vice Chairman
James K. Flaherty, Treasurer
Consuelo Gonzales Thorneil, Member
Kane Simonian, Secretary

PLANNING DISTRICT #6 SOUTH END

AND NEIGHBORHOOD STATISTICAL AREAS



STF1 Explanatory Note

The 1990 U.S. Census has released STF1 (Summary Tape File 1) data taken from short census forms collected from all persons and housing units on April 1, 1990 (the so-called 100-Percent Component). These data cover:

Population	Housing
Race	Vacancy characteristics
Hispanic origin	Tenure (owned or rented)
Age	Group quarters
Sex	Value of home/Monthly rent
Marital Status	Number of units in structure
Household relationship	Number of rooms in unit

These data do not include items from the Sample Component, the long forms completed by one household in 6, which are targetted for release in 1992 as STF3. STF3 data items cover many additional aspects, including income, education, occupation, ancestry, migration, as well as more detailed housing unit characteristics including condominium status.

The BRA Research Dept. has tallied the STF1 findings by 1990 Census block groups into Boston's 16 planning districts. The State Data Center, Mass. Inst. for Social and Economic Research (MISER), UMass/Amherst printed the accompanying eight page profiles of each planning district.

Tallies may vary by up to 0.2 percent, or 2 in 1,000 from final counts because some planning district divisions straddle individual census block groups. In these instances, the tallies were apportioned on the basis of the average of the 100 percent population and housing counts assigned to each portion.

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race

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By Race & ethnicity

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" by Race

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by tenure
by age

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P 1: (6) SOUTH END PLANNING DISTRICT POPULATION, AREA, DENSITY, 1990

Total Persons:	28,891	Population Percent of City:	5.0
Total Land Area (in Sq. Mi.):	1.03	Land Area Percent of City:	2.1
Population Density (per SqMi):	28,050	Density Ratio to City Average:	2.40

Source: 1990 US Census STF1 Counts. BRA Research Dept. data

NB: Numbers may not sum precisely to totals due to estimating and rounding. See text.

TOTAL BOSTON

Pop²:

574,283

Land (48.4) Pop = 37.1
Water (41.2)

11,859.80

P 2: POPULATION BY RACE/HISPANIC ORIG., SHARE OF BOSTON, and CHANGE, 1980 - 1990

(6) SOUTH END	1980		1990		:	1990 - 1980 Change		:	1990
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent		PD/Boston Ratio2
Total Population	27,125	100.0%	28,891	100.0%	:	1,766	6.5%	:	1.00
White1	10,662	39.3	12,868	44.5	:	2,206	20.7	:	0.71
Black1	11,058	40.8	9,871	34.2	:	(1,187)	-10.7	:	1.34
Native Americans	78	0.3	136	0.5	:	58	74.4	:	1.43
Asian + Pac. Islndrs	3,220	11.9	3,528	12.2	:	308	9.6	:	2.31
Other Race	2,107	7.8	2,469	8.5	:	362	17.2	:	1.44
Hispanic Origin	3,443	12.7	4,634	16.0	:	1,191	34.6	:	1.49
White	1,108	4.1	1,471	5.1	:	363	32.8	:	1.32
Black	555	2.0	708	2.5	:	153	27.6	:	1.40
All other	1,780	6.6	2,455	8.5	:	675	37.9	:	1.63
All Minorities	17,571	64.8	17,494	60.6	:	(77)	-0.4	:	1.48
White, Non-Hisp.	9,554	35.2	11,397	39.4	:	1,843	19.3	:	0.67
Black, Non-Hisp.	10,503	38.7	9,163	31.7	:	(1,340)	-12.8	:	1.33

Source: 1990, 1980 US Census STF1 Counts. Tables P6, P10.

1- includes Whites of Hispanic origin + Blacks of Hispanic origin

2- this ratio expresses relative concentrations, comparing the planning district to Boston as a whole

P 5: ALL PERSONS: AGE Cohorts. 1980 - 1990

(5) SOUTH END	1980		1990		:	1990 - 1980 Change		:	1990
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent		PO/Boston Ratio
Total Persons:	27,123	100.0%	28,891	100.0%	:	1,766	6.5%	:	1.00
0-4 years	1,373	5.1	1,599	5.5	:	226	16.5	:	0.87
5-14	3,118	11.5	2,611	9.0	:	(507)	-16.3	:	0.92
15-24	4,811	17.7	4,838	16.7	:	27	0.6	:	0.82
25-34	6,873	25.3	7,882	27.3	:	1,009	14.7	:	1.18
35-44	3,618	13.3	4,830	16.7	:	1,212	33.5	:	1.23
45-54	2,438	9.0	2,805	9.7	:	367	15.1	:	1.19
55-64	2,162	8.0	1,913	6.6	:	(249)	-11.5	:	0.94
65-74	1,645	6.1	1,423	4.9	:	(222)	-13.5	:	0.79
75-84	864	3.2	724	2.5	:	(140)	-16.2	:	0.66
85 +	223	0.8	247	0.9	:	24	10.8	:	0.60

Source: 1990, 1980 US Census STF1 Counts, Tables P6, P11.

1- this ratio expresses relative concentrations, comparing the planning district to Boston as a whole

P 5: POPULATION AGE GROUP OVERVIEW by RACE/ETHNICITY, 1980 and 1990

(6) SOUTH END

Years and Age	All	White ¹	Black ¹	Asian	All Others ²	: Hispanic Origin
1980, Total:	27,123	10,662	11,058	3,220	2,183	: 3,443
0-4 years	1,373	299	653	209	212	: 340
5-17	4,216	891	2,081	661	583	: 1,006
18-64	18,804	8,284	7,141	2,074	1,305	: 1,972
65 +	2,732	1,188	1,183	276	85	: 125
1990, Total:	28,891	12,868	9,871	3,528	2,605	: 4,634
0-4 years	1,599	351	777	201	270	: 444
5-17	3,408	556	1,663	606	583	: 1,021
18-64	21,471	11,208	6,369	2,278	1,616	: 2,921
65 +	2,394	753	1,062	443	136	: 248
Abs. Change, 90-'80:	1,766	2,206	(1,187)	308	420	: 1,191
0-4 years	226	52	124	(8)	58	: 104
5-17	(808)	(335)	(418)	(55)	0	: 15
18-64	2,667	2,924	(772)	204	311	: 949
65 +	(338)	(435)	(121)	167	51	: 123
Pct. Change, 90-'80:	6.5%	20.7%	-10.7%	9.6%	19.2%	: 34.6%
0-4 years	16.5	17.4	19.0	-3.8	27.4	: 30.6
5-17	-19.2	-37.6	-20.1	-8.3	0.0	: 1.5
18-64	14.2	35.3	-10.8	9.8	23.8	: 48.1
65 +	-12.4	-36.6	-10.2	60.5	60.0	: 98.4

Source: 1990, 1980 US Census STF1 Counts, Tables P6, P10, P11.

1- includes Whites of Hispanic origin ⇒ ~~Whites of Hispanic origin~~

2- includes Native Americans

H 1: HOUSING UNITS by TENURE, 1980 and 1990

SOUTH END	1980		1990		: 1990-1980 Change		: 1990
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Ratio1
Total Housing Units:2	13,761	100.0%	14,914	100.0%	1,153	8.4%	1.00
Occupied total:	12,019	87.3	13,222	88.7	1,203	10.0	0.97
Owner occupied	1,577	11.5	2,584	17.3	1,007	63.9	0.62
Renter occupied	10,442	75.9	10,638	71.3	196	1.9	1.13
Vacant total:	1,742	12.7	1,692	11.3	(50)	-2.9	1.27
For sale only	69	0.5	110	0.7	41	59.4	0.97
For rent	1,008	7.3	1,172	7.9	164	16.3	1.48
All other vacant DUs	665	4.8	409	2.7	(256)	-38.5	0.96

Source: 1990, 1980 US Census STF1 Counts, Tables H1, H2, H3.

1- this ratio expresses relative concentrations, comparing the planning district to Boston as a whole

2- due to US Census variations, numbers may differ by +/- 4 units between tables

H 2: HOUSING UNITS by RACE/HISPANIC ORIGIN OF HOUSEHOLDER, 1980 and 1990

SOUTH END	1980		1990		: 1990-1980 Change		: 1990
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Ratio2
All Occupied housing units	12,019	100.0%	13,223	100.0%	1,204	10.0%	0.97
White1	5,199	43.3	6,815	51.5	1,616	31.1	0.72
Black1	5,075	42.2	4,403	33.3	(672)	-13.2	1.48
American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut	42	0.3	53	0.4	11	26.2	1.31
Asian or Pacific Islander	930	7.7	1,121	8.5	191	20.5	1.95
Other race	773	6.4	831	6.3	58	7.5	1.48
Hispanic Origin	1,134	9.4	1,650	12.5	516	45.5	1.55
White, Hisp. origin	333	2.8	557	4.2	224	67.3	1.37
Black, Hisp. origin	183	1.5	281	2.1	98	53.6	1.60
All others, Hisp. origin	618	5.1	812	6.1	194	31.4	N/A
All minorities	7,153	59.5	6,965	52.7	(188)	-2.6	1.57
White, Non-Hispanic	4,866	40.5	6,258	47.3	1,392	28.6	0.71
Black, Non-Hispanic	4,892	40.7	4,122	31.2	(770)	-15.7	1.51

Source: 1990, 1980 US Census STF1 Counts, Tables H8 - H11.

1- includes whites of Hispanic origin + Blacks

2- this ratio expresses relative concentrations, comparing the planning district to Boston as a whole

3: OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS by TENURE and RACE, 1980 and 1990

OWNER-OCCUPIED

RENTER-OCCUPIED

	1980	1990	1990-1980 Change			1980	1990	1990-1980 Change	
	Number	Number	Number	Percent		Number	Number	Number	Percent
SOUTH END					:				
Occupied housing units	1,577	2,584	1,007	63.9%	:	10,442	10,639	197	1.9%
White ¹	1,060	2,107	1,047	98.8	:	4,139	4,708	569	13.7
Black ¹	346	288	(58)	-16.8	:	4,729	4,115	(614)	-13.0
American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut	7	7	0	0.0	:	35	46	11	31.4
Asian or Pacific Islander	125	161	36	28.8	:	805	960	155	19.3
Other race	39	21	(18)	-46.2	:	734	810	76	10.4
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	:	-----	-----	-----	-----
Hispanic Origin	43	69	26	60.5	:	1,091	1,581	490	44.9
White, Hisp. origin	21	41	20	95.2	:	312	516	204	65.4
Black, Hisp. origin	2	7	5	250.0	:	181	274	93	51.4
All others, Hisp. origin	20	21	1	5.0	:	598	791	193	32.3
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	:	-----	-----	-----	-----
All minorities	538	518	(20)	-3.7	:	6,615	6,447	(168)	-2.5
White, Non-Hispanic	1,039	2,066	1,027	98.8	:	3,827	4,192	365	9.5
Black, Non-Hispanic	344	281	(63)	-18.3	:	4,548	3,841	(707)	-15.5

Source: 1990, 1980 US Census STF1 Counts, Tables H8 - H11.

¹- includes Whites of Hispanic origin + BLACKS

H 4: TENURE BY AGE OF HOUSEHOLDER, 1990

	Occupied Housing Units				Column Distribution				Row Distribution		
	Total	Owner	Renter		Total	Owner	Renter		Total	Owner	Renter
SOUTH END				:				:			
Occupied housing units:	13,221	2,583	10,638	:	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	:	100.0%	19.5%	80.5%
Age of Householder:				:				:			
15 to 24 years	1,186	69	1,117	:	9.0	2.7	10.5	:	100.0	5.8	94.2
25 to 34 years	4,147	782	3,365	:	31.4	30.3	31.6	:	100.0	18.9	81.1
35 to 44 years	3,015	772	2,243	:	22.8	29.9	21.1	:	100.0	25.6	74.4
45 to 54 years	1,849	485	1,364	:	14.0	18.8	12.8	:	100.0	26.2	73.8
55 to 64 years	1,304	232	1,072	:	9.9	9.0	10.1	:	100.0	17.8	82.2
65 to 74 years	1,037	150	887	:	7.8	5.8	8.3	:	100.0	14.5	85.5
75 years and over	683	93	590	:	5.2	3.6	5.5	:	100.0	13.6	86.4

Source: 1990 US Census STF1 Counts, Tables H12.

Profile 2 - Persons By Age, Race, Sex And Hispanic Origin
1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 1
Area Type: Planning District

REPORT #91-14
Area Name: South End
State: MA

P12. Persons by Age, Race and Sex (Universe: 28,891 All Females: 13,144 All Males: 15,747)										P13. Hispanic Origin (Universe: Hisp Persons)		
All Persons:										Age		
-----White-----										Total		
-----Black-----										Female		
Am. Ind./Esk/Aleut										Total		
Asian/Pac Isl.										Total		
Other Race										Total		
Total										Total		
Under 1										Under 1		
1 - 2										1 - 2		
3 - 4										3 - 4		
5 - 6										5 - 6		
7 to 9										7 to 9		
10 - 11										10 - 11		
12 - 13										12 - 13		
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Report #91-15
Area Name: South End
State: MA

Profile 3 - Household and Family Characteristics
1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 1
Area Type: Planning District

P1/2/3/15/17/17A. Persons, Households And Families				P14. Sex by Marital Status (Universe: Persons 15 Years and Over)				P23. Household Type and Relationship (Universe: Persons 65+)			
Total				Total				Total			
28,891				24,675				2,395			
27,467				14,104				2,211			
13,223				5,837				223			
2,08				1,198				159			
15,392				1,351				34			
4,920				2,185				1,282			
								484			
								449			
								35			
								723			
								693			
								30			
								75			
								184			
								93			
								91			

Profile 4 - Household Characteristics
1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 1
Area Type: Planning District

P16. Household Size and Type (Universe: Households)									
1 Person	5,858								
Male Householder	3,390								
Female Householder	2,468								
2 or More Persons	7,365								
Family Households	4,920								
Married Couple Family	2,503								
With related children	1,101								
No related children	1,402								
Other family	2,418								
Male Householder, No Wife Pres.	143								
With related children	257								
No related children									
Female Householder, No Husband Present	2,018								
Husband present	1,414								
With related children	604								
No related children	2,445								
Non-Family Households	1,731								
Male Householder									
Female Householder	714								

P19/20. Race/Hispanic Origin of Householder by Household Type (Universe: Households)									
Family Households	4,921	100.0%	2,051	100.0%	2,870	100.0%	2,870	100.0%	2,870
Married Couple Fam	2,503	50.9%	605	29.5%	1,898	66.5%	1,898	66.5%	1,898
With Rela. Child	1,101	22.4%	309	15.1%	1,112	38.7%	1,112	38.7%	1,112
No Related Child	1,402	28.5%	296	14.4%	1,766	61.3%	1,766	61.3%	1,766
Other Family	2,418	49.1%	1,446	70.5%	972	39.5%	972	39.5%	972
Male Householder									
No Wife present	400	8.1%	189	9.2%	211	7.3%	211	7.3%	211
With Rela. Child	143	2.9%	76	3.7%	67	2.3%	67	2.3%	67
No related Child	257	5.2%	113	5.5%	144	5.0%	144	5.0%	144
Female Householder									
No Husband present	2,018	41.0%	1,257	61.3%	761	37.7%	761	37.7%	761
With Rela. Child	1,414	28.7%	895	43.6%	519	24.3%	519	24.3%	519
No Related Child	604	12.3%	362	17.6%	242	11.4%	242	11.4%	242
NonFamily Households	8,303	100.0%	2,354	100.0%	5,949	71.6%	5,949	71.6%	5,949
H.H. Living Alone	5,858	70.6%	2,096	89.0%	3,762	64.2%	3,762	64.2%	3,762
H.H. Not Liv. Alone	2,445	29.4%	258	11.0%	1,687	28.4%	1,687	28.4%	1,687

P18. Age of Household Members By Household Type (Universe: Households)									
Family Households	4,921	100.0%	2,672	100.0%	2,249	100.0%	2,249	100.0%	2,249
Married-Couple Family	2,503	50.9%	1,104	41.3%	1,399	62.2%	1,399	62.2%	1,399
Other Family	2,418	49.1%	1,568	58.7%	850	37.8%	850	37.8%	850
Male Householder, No Wife Present	400	8.1%	151	5.7%	249	11.1%	249	11.1%	249
Female Householder, No Husband Present	2,018	41.0%	1,417	53.0%	601	26.7%	601	26.7%	601
NonFamily Households	8,303	100.0%	26	100.0%	8,277	100.0%	8,277	100.0%	8,277
Male Householder	5,121	61.7%	18	69.2%	5,103	61.7%	5,103	61.7%	5,103
Female Householder	3,182	38.3%	8	30.8%	3,174	38.3%	3,174	38.3%	3,174

P24/25. Household Size/Type by Age of Members (Universe: Households)									
Households With:									
1 or more Persons 60 Years & over	2,580	19.5%	1,484						
No Persons 60 Years and over	10,642	80.5%	4,373						
1 or more Persons 65 Years & over	1,908	14.4%	1,142						
No Persons 65 Years and over	11,315	85.6%	4,716						

P27. Household Type and Household Size (Universe: Households)									
	Total	Pct	Cum.Pct	Total	Pct	Total	Pct	NonFamily	
1 Person	5,857	44.3%	44.3%	N/A	N/A	5,857	70.6%		
2 Persons	3,909	29.6%	73.9%	1,984	40.3%	1,925	23.2%		
3 Persons	1,563	11.8%	85.7%	1,216	24.7%	347	4.2%		
4 Persons	1,000	7.6%	93.2%	877	17.8%	123	1.5%		
5 Persons	501	3.8%	97.0%	469	9.5%	32	0.4%		
6 Persons	227	1.7%	98.7%	218	4.4%	9	0.1%		
7 or more Persons	164	1.2%	100.0%	156	3.2%	8	0.1%		
Total Households	13,223	100.0%	----	4,920	100.0%	8,301	100.0%		

P26. Household Type (Universe: Households)									
	Total	Pct	Under 18	Pct	Without Persons	Under 18	Pct		
Family Households	4,921	100.0%	2,672	100.0%		2,249	100.0%		
Married-Couple Family	2,503	50.9%	1,104	41.3%		1,399	62.2%		
Other Family	2,418	49.1%	1,568	58.7%		850	37.8%		
Male Householder, No Wife Present	400	8.1%	151	5.7%		249	11.1%		13,223
Female Householder, No Husband Present	2,018	41.0%	1,417	53.0%		601	26.7%		
NonFamily Households	8,303	100.0%	26	100.0%		8,277	100.0%		2,856
Male Householder	5,121	61.7%	18	69.2%		5,103	61.7%		
Female Householder	3,182	38.3%	8	30.8%		3,174	38.3%		10,367

Report #91-17
Area Name: South End
State: MA

Profile 5 - Housing Unit Characteristics and Tenure
1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 1
Area Type: Planning District

H4. Urban and Rural (Universe: Housing Units)		Units	H8/9. Tenure by Race of Householder (Universe: Occupied Housing Units)		Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied
All Housing Units		14,915	Occupied		Units Pct	Units Pct
Urban		0	Units Pct		10,639 100.0%	4,708 44.3%
Inside Urbanized Areas		0	13,223 100.0%		2,584 100.0%	4,115 38.7%
Outside Urbanized Areas		0	6,815 51.5%		2,107 81.5%	4,708 44.3%
Rural		0	4,403 33.3%		2,288 11.1%	4,115 38.7%
Not Defined for This File		14,915	American Indian		7 0.3%	46 0.4%
			Eskimo or Aleut		161 6.2%	960 9.0%
			Asian or Pacific		21 0.8%	810 7.6%
			Islander			
			Other Race			
H1/2/3/5. Housing Units by Tenure and Vacancy (Universe: Housing Units)		Housing Units Pct	H10/11. Hispanic Origin of Householder by Race of Householder and Tenure (Universe: Occupied Housing Units)			
All Housing Units		14,915 100.0%	Occupied			
Occupied		13,223 88.7%	Units Pct			
Owner Occupied		2,584 17.3%	13,572 100.0%			
Renter Occupied		10,639 71.3%	Units Pct			
Vacant		1,692 11.3%	Occupied			
For Rent		1,172 7.9%	Units Pct			
For Sale Only		110 0.7%	1,652 100.0%			
Rented or Sold, Not Occupied		111 0.7%	Units Pct			
For Seasonal, Recreational		43 0.3%	Occupied			
Or Occasional Use		5 0.0%	Units Pct			
For Migrant Workers		250 1.7%	1,652 100.0%			
Other Vacant			Units Pct			
			1,581 100.0%			
H14/15/16. Average Rooms by Tenure and Vacancy (Universe: Housing Units)		Aggregate Average	H12. Tenure by Age of Householder (Universe: Occupied Housing Units)			
All Housing Units		Rooms Per Unit	Occupied			
Occupied		51,455 3.45	Units Pct			
Owner Occupied		46,127 3.49	13,223 100.0%			
Renter Occupied		12,732 4.93	Units Pct			
Vacant		33,395 3.14	Owner Occupied			
For Rent		5,328 3.15	Units Pct			
For Sale Only		3,394 2.90	1,186 9.0%			
Rented or Sold/Not Occupied		441 4.01	Units Pct			
For Seasonal, Recreational		372 3.35	1,417 31.4%			
Or Occasional Use		173 4.02	3,015 22.8%			
For Migrant Workers		19 3.80	1,849 14.0%			
Other Vacant		928 3.71	1,304 9.9%			
			1,037 7.8%			
			683 5.2%			
			Owner Occupied			
			Units Pct			
			2,583 100.0%			
			Units Pct			
			1,117 10.5%			
			3,365 31.6%			
			2,243 21.1%			
			1,364 12.8%			
			1,072 10.1%			
			887 8.3%			
			590 5.5%			

Report #91-18
Area Name: South End
State: MA

Profile 6 - Housing Unit Characteristics - Persons, Rooms and Tenure
1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 1
Area Type: Planning District

H17/18. Tenure by Persons in Unit				(Universe: Occupied Housing Units)				H13. Rooms (Universe: Housing Units)			
				Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied						
				Units	Units	Pct	Pct				
				100.0%	100.0%						
Total				11,011	10,638	100.0%	100.0%	1 Room	1,886		12.6%
1 Person				8,937	4,816	40.3%	45.3%	2 Rooms	2,663		17.9%
2 Persons				3,509	2,927	27.3%	27.5%	3 Rooms	3,806		25.5%
3 Persons				1,564	1,298	10.3%	12.2%	4 Rooms	3,446		23.1%
4 Persons				1,000	841	6.2%	7.9%	5 Rooms	1,648		11.0%
5 Persons				501	425	2.9%	4.0%	6 Rooms	703		4.7%
6 Persons				227	196	1.2%	1.8%	7 Rooms	237		1.6%
7 or more Persons				164	137	1.1%	1.3%	8 Rooms	162		1.1%
								9 or more Rooms	362		2.4%
								Total	14,915		100.0%
H17A/18A/19/20. Persons in Occupied Housing Units											
				Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied						
				Units	Units	Pct	Pct				
				100.0%	100.0%						
Persons				27,467	22,246						
Persons per Unit				53.26	46.46						
Percentage of Persons				100.0%	81.0%						
H21/22. Tenure by Persons Per Room											
				Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied						
				Units	Units	Pct	Pct				
				100.0%	100.0%						
Persons Per Room				7,051	5,061						
0.50 or Less				4,895	4,362						
0.51 to 1.00				578	545						
1.01 to 1.50				490	468						
1.51 to 2.00				209	203						
2.01 or More											
Total				13,223	10,638	100.0%	100.0%				
H40. Vacancy Status by Duration of Vacancy (Universe: Vacant Housing Units)											
				Vacant	For Rent	Pct	Pct				
				100.0%	100.0%						
Total				1,692	1,172	100.0%	100.0%				
Less Than 2 Months				481	350	29.9%	29.9%				
2 to 6 Months				591	480	41.0%	41.0%				
6 or More Months				619	342	29.2%	29.2%				
H39. Age of Householder by Meals Included in Rent (Universe: Specified Renter Occupied Housing Units)											
				All Ages	Under 65 Years	Pct	Pct				
				100.0%	100.0%						
Total				10,619	9,143	100.0%	100.0%				
With Cash Rent				10,534	9,073	99.2%	99.2%				
Meals Included in Rent				45	36	0.4%	0.4%				
No Meals Included in Rent				10,489	9,037	98.8%	98.8%				
No Cash Rent				85	70	0.8%	0.8%				

Report #91-19
Area Name: South End
State: MA

Profile 7 - Financial Characteristics of Housing Units
1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 1
Area Type: Planning District

H23. Value (Universe: Specified Owner Occupied Housing Units)	Units	Pct
Specified Owner Occupied	326	100.0%
Less than \$15,000	0	0.0%
\$ 15,000 to \$ 19,999	0	0.0%
\$ 20,000 to \$ 24,999	1	0.3%
\$ 25,000 to \$ 29,999	0	0.0%
\$ 30,000 to \$ 34,999	2	0.6%
\$ 35,000 to \$ 39,999	0	0.0%
\$ 40,000 to \$ 44,999	1	0.3%
\$ 45,000 to \$ 49,999	0	0.0%
\$ 50,000 to \$ 59,999	2	0.6%
\$ 60,000 to \$ 74,999	2	0.6%
\$ 75,000 to \$ 99,999	8	2.5%
\$ 100,000 to \$ 124,999	11	3.4%
\$ 125,000 to \$ 149,999	13	4.0%
\$ 150,000 to \$ 174,999	20	6.1%
\$ 175,000 to \$ 199,999	18	5.5%
\$ 200,000 to \$ 249,999	21	6.4%
\$ 250,000 to \$ 299,999	47	14.4%
\$ 300,000 to \$ 399,999	77	23.6%
\$ 400,000 to \$ 499,999	47	14.4%
\$ 500,000 or more	55	16.9%

H24/25/26/27/28. Units and Value by Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder (Universe: Specified Owner-Occupied Housing Units)	Units	Aggregate Value	Average Value
Total	326	\$ 109,590,772	\$ 336,168
White	224	\$ 82,249,644	\$ 367,186
Black	88	\$ 23,627,649	\$ 268,496
American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut	1	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000
Asian or Pacific Islander	12	\$ 3,067,500	\$ 255,625
Other Race	0	\$ 45,979	\$ 45,979
Not of Hispanic Origin	320	\$ 107,957,845	\$ 337,368
Hispanic Origin	6	\$ 1,632,927	\$ 272,155

H23A/23B/23C. Value (Universe: Specified Owner-Occupied Housing Units)	Value
Lower Value Quartile	\$ 156,556
Median Value	\$ 202,848
Upper Value Quartile	\$ 254,416

H32. Contract Rent (Universe: Specified Renter Occupied Housing Units)	Units	Pct
Specified Renter Occupied	10,534	100.0%
With Cash Rent	10,534	99.2%
Less than \$100	487	4.6%
\$ 100 to \$ 149	1,216	11.5%
\$ 150 to \$ 199	684	6.4%
\$ 200 to \$ 249	413	3.9%
\$ 250 to \$ 299	375	3.5%
\$ 300 to \$ 349	496	4.7%
\$ 350 to \$ 399	602	5.7%
\$ 400 to \$ 449	741	7.0%
\$ 450 to \$ 499	675	6.4%
\$ 500 to \$ 549	491	4.6%
\$ 550 to \$ 599	431	4.1%
\$ 600 to \$ 649	406	3.8%
\$ 650 to \$ 699	399	3.8%
\$ 700 to \$ 749	467	4.4%
\$ 750 to \$ 999	1,530	14.4%
\$ 1,000 or more	1,123	10.6%
No Cash Rent	85	0.8%

H33/34/35/36/37. Units and Contract Rent by Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder (Universe: Specified Renter-Occupied Housing Units Paying Cash Rent)	Units	Aggregate Contract Rent	Average Contract Rent
Total	10,534	\$ 5,629,646	\$ 534
White	4,663	\$ 3,357,757	\$ 720
Black	4,078	\$ 1,575,796	\$ 386
American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut	46	\$ 15,780	\$ 343
Asian or Pacific Islander	948	\$ 406,423	\$ 429
Other Race	800	\$ 273,889	\$ 342
Not of Hispanic Origin	8,973	\$ 5,059,034	\$ 564
Hispanic Origin	1,561	\$ 570,612	\$ 366

H32A/32B/32C. Contract Rent (Universe: Specified Renter-Occupied Housing Units Paying Cash Rent)	Contract Rent
Lower Contract Rent Quartile	\$ 328
Median Contract Rent	\$ 489
Upper Contract Rent Quartile	\$ 685

131,200 units
258400

Report #91-20
Area Name: South End
State: MA

Profile 8 - Housing Unit Structural Characteristics
1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 1
Area Type: Planning District

H29/43. Units and Value by Units in Structure (Universe: Owner-Occupied Housing Units)				H30. Vacancy Status (Universe: Specified Vacant For Sale Only)				H31. Price Asked (Universe: Specified Vacant-for-Sale)				H38. Rent Asked (Universe: Specified Vacant-for-Rent)			
Units				Average Value				Specified Vacant For Rent				Housing Units			
Aggregate Value				Average Value				Average Price Asked				Average Rent Asked			
Average Value				Average Value				Average Price Asked				Average Rent Asked			
\$				\$				\$				\$			
Total				2,584				2,584				2,584			
Single Unit				1,692				1,692				1,692			
1, Detached				1,692				1,692				1,692			
1, Attached				0				0				0			
Multi Unit				852				852				852			
2				1,936				1,936				1,936			
3 or more				0				0				0			
Mobile Home or Trailer				27				27				27			
Other				0				0				0			
Total				2,584				2,584				2,584			
Single Unit				1,692				1,692				1,692			
1, Detached				1,692				1,692				1,692			
1, Attached				0				0				0			
Multi Unit				852				852				852			
2				1,936				1,936				1,936			
3 or 4				0				0				0			
5 to 9				0				0				0			
10 to 19				0				0				0			
20 to 49				0				0				0			
50 or more				0				0				0			
Mobile Home or Trailer				27				27				27			
Other				0				0				0			
Total				2,584				2,584				2,584			
Single Unit				1,692				1,692				1,692			
1, Detached				1,692				1,692				1,692			
1, Attached				0				0				0			
Multi Unit				852				852				852			
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Mobile Home or Trailer				27				27				27			
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20 to 49				0				0				0			
50 or more				0				0				0			
Mobile Home or Trailer				27				27				27			
Other				0				0				0			
Total				2,584				2,584				2,584			
Single Unit				1,692				1,692				1,692			
1, Detached				1,692				1,692				1,692			
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Multi Unit				852				852				852			
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5 to 9				0				0				0			
10 to 19				0				0				0			
20 to 49				0				0				0			
50 or more				0				0				0			
Mobile Home or Trailer				27				27				27			
Other				0				0				0			
Total				2,584				2,584				2,584			
Single Unit				1,692				1,692				1,692			
1, Detached				1,692				1,692				1,692			
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Multi Unit				852				852				852			
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5 to 9				0				0				0			
10 to 19				0				0				0			
20 to 49				0				0				0			
50 or more				0				0				0			
Mobile Home or Trailer				27				27				27			
Other				0				0				0			
Total				2,584				2,584				2,584			
Single Unit				1,692				1,692				1,692			
1, Detached				1,692				1,692				1			

Appendix 4

South End Lower Roxbury Open space Land Trust Board of Directors

South End Lower Roxbury Open Space Land Trust
Board of Directors

Betsy Johnson, President

Member at Large, South End Working Group

David Wilson, Treasurer

Member at Large, South End Working Group

Shirley K. Allen, Chairperson, Board of Directors

Member at Large, South End Working Group

John Kilgus, Secretary, Board of Directors

Member at Large

Richard A. Smith

Member at Large, South End Working Group

Valerie Brown

Member at Large, South End Working Group

Tom Feltus

Member at Large, South End Working Group, South End Historical Society

Mike Telle

Member at Large, South End Working Group, South End Historical Society

Robert Brown

Member at Large

John Wilson

Member at Large, South End Working Group, South End Historical Society

Joseph M. Brown

Member at Large, South End Working Group

John Brown

Member at Large, South End Working Group

John Brown

Member at Large, South End Working Group, South End Historical Society

John Brown

Member at Large, South End Working Group

South End Lower Roxbury Open Space Land Trust
Board of Directors

Betsy Johnson, President
Member at large; South End Working Group

Joyce Weston, Treasurer
Member at large; Project Place garden coordinator

Nancy Kafka, Corresponding Secretary
Wellington Green, Claremont Neighborhood

Seth Kilgore, Recording Secretary
Warren/Clarendon

Richard Anderson
Worcester Garden, Chester Park Neighborhood

Valerie Burns
Member at large; Director, Boston Natural Areas Fund

Dan DeSantis
Northampton, South End Working Group, South End Historical Society

Rita Gallo
Dartmouth Park, Eight Street Neighborhood, South End Historical Society

Elizabeth James
Lenox/Kendall

Mary Longley
West Springfield, Executive Director Tenants Development Corporation

Douglas MacElroy
Worcester, Claremont Neighborhood

Roger Stearns
Berkeley, South End Working Group

Leroy Stoddard
Member at large; Director, Boston Urban Gardeners at the Community Farm

Eleanor Strong
Washington/Rutland, South End Working Group

Appendix 5

Letters of Support for Berkeley Garden

JULY 28, 1981

Mr. Clarence Jones, Chairman
Boston Redevelopment Authority Board
One City Hall Plaza
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Mr. Chairman and Board Members:

I am writing to you in support of the last recommendation to request proposals for permanent open space on parcel P-22. The Berkeley Street Garden is a valuable asset to the South End community. Local gardeners have put in a lot of hard work to create a beautiful open space which is a densely populated urban setting.

As you know the gardeners represent all economic and social segments of the South End community. From newly arrived South Enders to the large number of older, long-term residents who give this area a unique ethnic flavor. The gardeners make use of the garden as both a place for social interaction and an important source of recreation for their families.

The Berkeley Street Garden and gardeners have been recognized by open space organizations and national media as a truly unique for other community gardens. The National Horticultural Society recognized it as the "Community Garden of the Year" in 1979. The Boston Green Space Alliance gave the gardeners a certificate of appreciation for the "exemplary" condition of the garden. The different organizations that utilize the garden, a recent "Today Show" segment focused on the social cultural identity of the gardeners, and the New York Times wrote several articles about the community's efforts to preserve the site.

I support the Boston Redevelopment Authority's recognition of the significant importance that this and other gardens play in the lives of many South Enders and I urge you to approve this proposal.

Raymond L. Flynn
Raymond L. Flynn
Mayor of Boston



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
RAYMOND L. FLYNN

July 18, 1991

Mr. Clarence Jones, Chairman
Boston Redevelopment Authority Board
One City Hall Plaza
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Mr. Chairman and Board Members:

I am writing to you in support of the BRA recommendation to request proposals for permanent open space on parcel P-6A. The Berkeley Street Gardens is a valuable asset to the South End community. Local gardeners have put in a lot of hard work to create a beautiful open space environment in a densely populated urban setting.

As you know the gardeners represent all economic and social segments of the South End community, from newly arrived South Enders to the large number of older Chinese gardeners who give this site a unique ethnic flavor. Many hard working South Enders make use of the garden as both a form of outdoor recreation activity and an important source of inexpensive food for their families.

The Berkeley Street Gardens and gardeners have been recognized by open space organizations and national media as a role model for other community gardens. The Massachusetts Horticultural Society recognized it as the "Community Garden of the Year" in 1990, the Boston Green Space Alliance gave the gardeners a certificate of appreciation for the successful coalition building between the different communities that utilize the garden, a recent "Sunday Today Show" segment focused on the mixed cultural identity of the gardeners, and the New York Times wrote several articles about the community's efforts to renovate the site.

I support the Boston Redevelopment Authority's recognition of the significant importance that this and other garden sites play in the lives of many South End residents and I urge the Board to approve this proposal.

Sincerely,

Raymond L. Flynn
Mayor of Boston

BOSTON
REDEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

Raymond L. Flynn
Mayor

Stephen Coyle

One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201
617-722-4300

April 26, 1989

Ms. Lisa G. Chapnick
Public Facilities Department
26 Court Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Dear Lisa:

I am writing to offer my strong support for the Grass Roots Grant proposal recently submitted to your department by Boston Urban Gardeners (BUG) on behalf of the South End's Berkeley Street Community Garden.

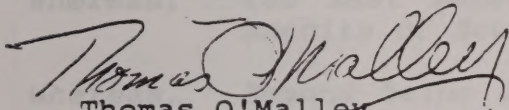
The Berkeley Street Community Garden is located on South End Urban Renewal Parcel P-6A, a lot now owned by the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA). This parcel has been used as a community garden for at least 10 years. In 1987, the BRA accepted the recommendation made by BUG in its South End Open Space Needs Assessment that at least 60 percent of Parcel P-6A be reserved as public open space. The BRA owns a number of other vacant South End lots that are now being used as community gardens -- and the Authority plans to transfer most of these parcels to a community-based non-profit agency in the near future for long-term use as community gardens. The specific future of Parcel P-6A will be discussed as part of the soon-to-begin South End Development Policy Planning Process, but these discussions will be limited to the precise mix of housing and open space that will ultimately exist on the site.

The improvements addressed in the aforementioned Grass Roots Grant proposal will greatly benefit the gardeners who use this site -- and also surrounding neighbors. The Berkeley Street Community Garden is an underutilized site. We and the staff of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services receive many complaints about the condition of the site, and while our Real Estate Services staff has spent considerable time and energy maintaining the lot, additional resources are clearly required. The BRA is prepared to commit significant resources to assist the gardeners on the other BRA-owned garden sites in the South End, and we are looking to BUG and other resources to assist with maintaining and improving Parcel P-6A.

Lisa Chapnick
April 26, 1989
Page 2

I hope you will feel free to call me if you have any questions about this site or BUG's proposal, and that you will give the BUG application careful consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas O'Malley
Director of South End Planning
and Development

IN CITY COUNCIL, July 17, 1991
ADOPTED.



Boston City Council
Office of the President

Councillor Christopher A. Iannella:-

- Whereas, The East Berkeley Street Community Gardens have been an amenity of South End living for many years, and,
- Whereas, Beyond being a respite from congested streets and densely constructed homes, the gardens have become a focus of community life for the multi-ethnic neighborhoods of the South End, and,
- Whereas, Gardening is for some avocation, and, for others, very necessary to feed themselves and their families, and,
- Whereas, The common interest in urban agriculture brings together a group of citizens as diverse as the South End itself, and,
- Whereas, The Boston Redelopment Authority Board will reportedly shortly issue a request for proposals for the community garden site, and,
- Whereas, The loss of the gardens would have a major, very negative, impact on the citizens of the South End, therefore be it
- RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council in meeting assembled does hereby memorialize the Boston Redevelopment Authority Board to dedicate the East Berkeley-Tremont-Shawmut Avenue parcel to community garden use forever.

IN CITY COUNCIL, July 17, 1991.
ADOPTED.

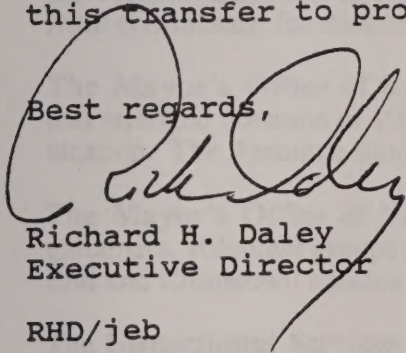
July 9, 1991

Mayor Raymond Flynn
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Mayor Flynn:

I am writing on behalf of the Berkeley Street Community Gardens, a garden that has been recognized by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society through our awards program for its excellence. This garden is proposed for transfer to the South End Lower Roxbury Land Trust, a move we heartily support, and a move pending before the Boston Redevelopment Authority. I hope very much you will indicate to the B.R.A. Board your support for this transfer to protect this important garden.

Best regards,



Richard H. Daley
Executive Director

RHD/jeb

bc: **Roger Stearns**
Betsy Johnson
Janet Hunkel



Boston Urban Gardeners at the Community Farm
46 Chestnut Avenue, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 (617) 522-1259

December 12, 1990

Patrick McGuigan, Deputy Director
City of Boston Public Facilities Department
15 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Mr. McGuigan:

To assist PFD in its consideration of our application for funding for Phase II of the reconstruction of the Berkeley Street Community Garden, we offer a review of the support that various City departments provided to Phase I. The total investment was impressive:

Public Works donated hauling and disposal of many truckloads of debris on site cleanup day and loaned tools for volunteer use at cleanups.

The **Boston Redevelopment Authority** picked up, hauled and dumped seventeen large truckloads of debris. A four-man crew and front-end loader filled the trucks. BRA personnel maintained the newly clean site in a tidy condition--opening the gates and walking the grounds, picking up papers, and closing the gates at dusk-- until the garden committee took on daily maintenance.

The **Parks and Recreation Department** assigned its Community Garden Liaison to the project, who facilitated tool delivery for cleanups, weekly trash pickups by smaller trucks after the larger debris were removed (July through season's end), donation of flowers for the Tremont Street border, and delivery of woodchips from the Department's yard and from contractors, for mulching the pathways.

The **Mayor's Office of Business and Cultural Development** provided staff time that arranged donation of 100 lunches from McDonald's, to feed participants in the major cleanup. The Resource Bank also provided support.

The **Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services** donated T-shirts and gloves for the gardeners, volunteer groups and neighbors at the two major cleanup days; both the South End and Chinatown liaisons were very supportive.

The **Inspectional Services Department's** Rodent Control Unit baited the site after the cleanups and provided followup consultation.

The **Boston Municipal Police** checked the site regularly and specifically directed officers to patrol after dark when gates were locked.

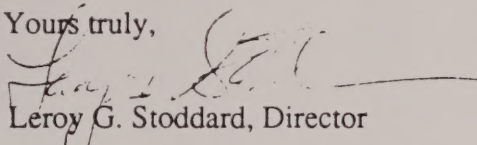
The **Public Facilities Department** did more than make the Grassroots grant, which of course was the primary funding source. Many of your staff took part in a day of cleanup, site preparation and tree and shrub pruning. PFD's street tree planting program installed 18 large ginkos along the Berkeley Street edge. PFD's Grassroots landscape architect gave many hours of technical assistance and helped insure completion of tasks in time for press dates and dedication.

The breadth of assistance for the **Berkeley Street Community Garden** from City departments is paralleled by the range of support by neighborhood associations proclaimed in their letters to the BRA. By designating the garden a special study area, participants in the master planning process have acknowledged that the revival of the garden is a strong argument for its long-term viability as open space. BUG's earlier study clearly underestimated the broad support and investment that reconstruction would stimulate. Studies can only speculate and suggest. People vote with their hands and voices and demonstrate what is possible.

We will ask the BRA to acknowledge in writing that there is considerable public support for keeping the garden 100 per cent. open space and that a considerable public investment has been made in rebuilding the entire site. We will request from the BRA a final decision on the Berkeley Street Community Garden in sixty days.

Thank you for your own personal involvement in Berkeley's revival.

Yours truly,


Leroy G. Stoddard, Director

cc: Stephanie Bothwell

I am writing to you regarding the Berkeley Community Garden located across from Castle Square Development.

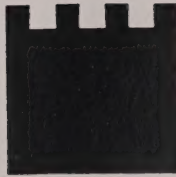
BUG joins other organizations such as the Neighborhood Association, the Neighborhood Association, a separate division in support for the preservation of open space for the Berkeley Community Garden.

Sincerely,



Deborah Barker, Co-Chair

cc: Berkeley Community Garden
Tom O'Neil



CASTLE SQUARE TENANTS ORGANIZATION INC.

December 12, 1990

Steven Coyle, Director
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Plaza
Boston, MA 02201

I am writing to you regarding the Berkley Community Gardens located across from Castle Square Development.

CSTO joins other organizations such as Ellis Neighborhood, Shawmut Ave Neighborhood Association, 8 Streets officers in support for the preservation of 100% open space for the Berkely Community Garden.

Sincerely,

Deborah Backus

Deborah Backus, Co-Chair

cc: Berkely Community Gardens
Tom O'Malley

Eight Street Neighborhood Association

October 7, 1990

Berkley Street Garden Committee
548 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02118

Dear Berkley Street Garden Committee Members:

The Executive Committee of the Eight Street Neighborhood Association want to extend to you our congratulations for the major improvements you have made in the Berkley Community Gardens.

The visual improvements and the general cleaning have made them and the neighborhood a more attractive and healthier place. In addition to those benefits, and probably the most important benefit, is the broad representation of the community now using the gardens.

We believe it is important that opportunities for this level of interaction be maintained in the South End and in our neighborhood.

This letter will be submitted to the next Eight Street monthly

o

cc: Joyce Richmond Smith
James Kelly, Boston City Council
James Matthews, 254
Julia Stone, Boston City Council
Executive Committee Berkley Community Gardens

Eight Streets Neighborhood Association

December 1, 1990

Mr. Stephen Coyle
Director
Boston Redevelopment Authority
9th Floor
Boston City Hall
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Mr. Coyle:

The Eight Streets Neighborhood Association in the South End wishes to inform you that at our November monthly meeting, held on November 28, 1990, voted in favor of keeping the Berkeley Street Community Gardens, BRA parcel P6A, 100% open space and to have that parcel added to the South End/Lower Roxbury Public Land Trust. The results of the vote were 24 in favor and 3 opposed, with no abstentions.

The key issues discussed prior to the vote were the need for open space in an area with a heavy concentration of family designed housing, the important economic benefits the food produced in the gardens provides many of our residents and the positive interaction this space creates between all the many groups that make up our neighborhood.

The Eight Street Neighborhood Association includes the area bounded by East Berkeley Street, Tremont Street, Waltham Street, and Shawmut Avenue.

Please feel free to contact us in the future regarding this matter or any other that may affect our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Peter Chin

Peter Chin
President, Eight Street Association

CC: Mayor Raymond Flynn
James Kelly, Boston City Council
James Kostaras, BRA
Julie Stone, Boston Urban Gardens
Executive Committee Berkeley Community Gardens

SHAWMUT AVE. NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

John deRedon • Diane Choueiri • Rolf Fuessler
President • Vice President • Treasurer

November 5, 1990

Mr. Stephen Coyle
Boston Redevelopment Authority
Boston City Hall
City Hall Plaza
Boston, Ma. 02201

RE: Berkeley Street Community Gardens

Dear Mr. Coyle:

Relative to the above, our Association recently met with members of the Garden Committee responsible for the 1000% improvements to these gardens.

All members present voted unanimously, that a request be made to designate this parcel 100% open space - for use as community gardens and to include this open space designation as permanent - relative to the current twenty year plan.

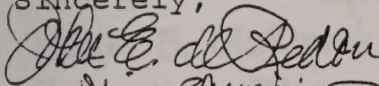
Over the years these gardens have served many residents of the community in many ways and have offered residents both old and young the opportunity to meet together and share a common love, namely gardening. A rarity in this city.

As stated, these gardens have improved 1000% over the past year and will continue to do so. As East Berkeley St. is somewhat of a "gateway" to the South End, the improved gardens present a handsome "monument" if you will to the image of the South End.

Both on local as well as national television these gardens have been featured, also, the garden committee has received an award by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

We beg of you to take these factors into consideration and allow these gardens to remain permanent.

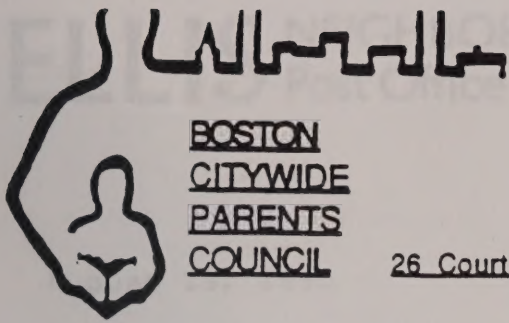
Sincerely,



Diane Choueiri
John E. de Redon, President
Diane Choueiri, Vice-President
Rolf Fuessler, Secretary/Treasurer

cc: City Councillor James Kelly; Jule Stone - Boston Urban Gardeners;
James Kostaras, BRA; Mayor Raymond Flynn; Berkeley Gardens - Committee

288 SHAWMUT AVENUE • BOSTON, MA 02118
482-1787/262-3964



BOSTON
CITYWIDE
PARENTS
COUNCIL

26 Court Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108. (617) 720-0370

September 22, 1990

Dear Gardeners,

The Citywide Parents' Council, Inc. is proud to be a part of the Berkeley Community Gardening Program. The experience of all neighbors, young and old, learning to grow not only produce, but the art of humanity is a model example for our whole city.

The youth and garden program provides an excellent opportunity for urban children to learn cross-cultural gardening techniques. From bok choy to zucchini to mustard greens, from raised beds to vertical or organic gardening, from seeds to plants, to food for your table, no matter what the mechanics, attention to nurturing produces the desired goal of achievement through doing.

Best of luck in your continued efforts towards the restoration of this communities' common gardens.

Sincerely,

Hattie B. McKinnis
Executive Director
Citywide Parents' Council, Inc.

A multi-cultural parents organization monitoring quality, desegregated education

ELLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED

Post Office Box 961, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117

August 29, 1990

Berkeley Gardens
c/o Charles Whitlock
41 Dwight Street
Boston, MA 02118

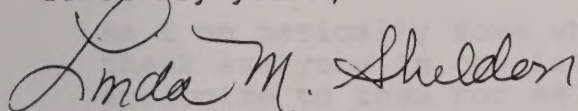
Dear Chuck:

At our monthly meeting in July, the Ellis Board voted to contribute \$500 to the Berkeley Gardens. We agreed that the effort to create and beautify an open space that could be shared by four disparate neighborhoods was a worthy cause. Those of us who have been close to it can see how its existence is beginning to bridge the abyss between the Chinese community, the Syrian community and the neighborhoods on opposite sides of Tremont Street. In a city as diverse and as dense as this one is, efforts to foster mutual understanding are critical to the continued viability of all our neighborhoods.

This donation is being made in memory of Bob Harkness, a former member of the Ellis Board, and a good neighbor who would have appreciated what your efforts are all about. The Ellis members would like our contribution in Bob's name commemorated in some tangible way. If the money were used to purchase a bench or a planter, we'd like to see a plate on it acknowledging the gift from Ellis in Bob's memory. Bill McCarthy told me that you folks would come up with a list of options that we might choose from at a later meeting.

Enclosed is our contribution for \$500, and our best wishes for continued success with this project.

Sincerely yours,



Linda M. Sheldon
President

cc: file

Public Facilities:

Neighborhood Services:

Mike Bartolotta
David Hurley

Lisa Casanich
Stephanie Gottwell

Ken Lee
Don Gillis

February 24, 1990

Mr. Stephen Coyle
Director, BRA
1 City Hall Sq.
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Mr. Coyle,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and all of those who have worked so hard to improve the Berkeley Street Gardens in the South End.

As most of those that had any contact with me during the summer of 88 will recall I was a very vocal critic of the gardens and their condition. Most of my concerns then were valid; but clearly some of them were a result of not understanding the gardens, their use and the needs of those that use them.

These gardens are an important part of the community and fill a wide range of needs, which a diverse community such as ours has. The open space in a section of the South End with a dense population is very necessary. The food that is produced serves an economic need for some, is relaxing for the gardeners, and is something many in the neighborhood enjoy simple as observers.

We want them to be a visual asset and certainly not a negative health factor and those issues are being very aggressively addressed by the Boston Urban Gardens organization. And I want to thank them for their direction and help.

And then there are all of those that have been worked to improve this space.

As I am basically some what lazy I will take the liberty to thank everyone in one letter. For those I miss please apologize to them for me.

The BRA:

Mike Bartoziak
David Hurley

Public Facilities;

Lisa Chapnick
Stephanie Bothwell

Neighborhood Services;

Yan Lee
Don Gillis

Department Of Public Works; Joe Canavan
Ralph Riley

Boston Urban Gardeners; Julie Stone
Charlotte Kahn

To all of you I say thank you for making our city work in.

Sincerely,

Bill Amidon
29 Dwight Street
Boston, MA 02118

Member of Eight Streets Assoc.

c/c David Hurley
Mike Bartoziak
Lisa Chapnick
Stephanie Bothwell
Yan Lee
Don Gillis
Joe Canavan
Ralph Riley
Julie Stone
Charlotte Stone



BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY 72 Warren Avenue / Boston, Massachusetts 02116 / Telephone (617) 267-8425

To: Friends of the South End Garden Project

Re: The South End Garden Project for 1977

Ladies and Gentlemen:

During the summer and fall of 1976, the Boston Redevelopment Authority allowed the use of certain vacant lots in the South End Renewal Project as temporary neighborhood gardens.

This, the South End Garden Project, was conceived and implemented by South End residents and Project Area Committee members. The prime movers for this program were Ms. Charlotte Kahn, Mr. Mark Anderson and Ms. Morrell Baber, who devoted extensive time and energy to this most successful community gardening effort. These volunteers proved to be most innovative and efficient in providing maximum garden areas, with minimal cash resources. New or previously unrecognized sources of free labor, materials and equipment were developed to maximum advantage.

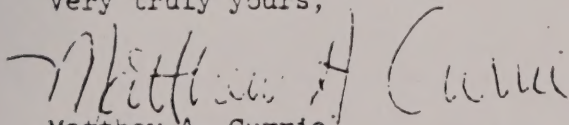
The BRA South End staff worked closely with the Garden Project volunteers to provide advisory and technical assistance, and to lend whatever support the site office had available.

The BRA South End Site Office emphatically supports continuation and improvement of the South End Garden Project for 1977. All of the vacant lots in use will be available through this coming year. We plan to again assist this project wherever possible, and specifically hope to be able to contribute improved irrigation and watering facilities for certain lots.

However effective this volunteer effort has been, the Garden Project will still require independent financial support to realize the goals for 1977. It is hoped that this financial support will be forthcoming from Friends of the South End Garden Project.

I hope that you can help this worthwhile community project.

Very truly yours,


Matthew A. Currie
South End Project Director

MAC:jmd



CITY OF BOSTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION / ROOM 911 / CITY HALL / BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS / 02201



October 1, 1975

David Strohm
Mayor's Office
Community Development
City Hall

Dear Dave,

The Conservation Commission, with the permission and cooperation of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, has been working with South End residents, particularly the Eight Streets Neighborhood Association, to develop community gardens and mini-park on the vacant land along East Berkeley Street, between Tremont St. and Shawmut Ave., in the South End.

With the assistance of the BRA and the Parks Department, over forty garden plots were successfully initiated on the site this past summer. The gardeners have formed the Berkeley Gardens Association and hope to expand and improve the gardens next year.

An application for funding, through the Revival Program, for expansion of the gardens is currently being prepared on behalf of the Garden Association by the South End Little City Hall and the Eight Streets Neighborhood Association. This application, and the continued use of the site for community gardens, has the full support and approval of the Conservation Commission, by vote of September 30, 1975.

It is anticipated that, once the garden sites are firmly established, the Parks Department will administer the gardens as part of the victory gardens program.

This is a most worthy project, which has had the cooperation and assistance of a number of city agencies. We hope that the funding application will be approved and that the gardens will be available to greater numbers of people in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Alan Weinberg
Executive Secretary

cc: Robert T. Kenney
Matt Currie
Carlos Diaz
Kevin Shea
Susan Childs
Peter Moore
Alex Taft

THE BERKELEY COMMUNITY GARDENS ASSOCIATION

July 2, 1991

In response to the June 27 tabling of the vote to place Berkeley Community Gardens in R F P status, the members of the Berkeley Community Gardens Association would like to invite you to a short walk through this very special garden on the evening of July 9 at 6:00 PM.

The undersigned four neighborhood association leaders are concerned that 100% of this garden will not be placed in a position to become a Land Trust garden.

Reflecting the spirit of the community of this garden, we have spent the last two years improving and beautifying the 135 individual gardens. This has resulted in favorable publicity for the City, including the Community Garden of the Year award for the State of Massachusetts from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, three articles about the City Year program for the reconstruction of the gardens in the NEW YORK TIMES, and a spot on the NBC Sunday Today Show.

The neighborhood association presidents, representing approximately 7,000 South End residents, look forward to meeting you for this garden walk-through.

Sincerely,

ELLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

By

Linda Sheldon
Linda Sheldon, President

EIGHT STREETS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

By

Peter Chin
Peter Chin, President

CASTLE SQUARE TENANTS ORGANIZATION

By

Deborah Backus
Deborah Backus, President

SHAWMUT AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

By

John de Redon
John de Redon, President

CC: Mayor Flynn, Stephen Coyle, Councillor James Kelly

Appendix 6

Ginkgo Tree Planting

11 Liberty 1993

Lili Hannah Morse
Mary Smith Associates
121 Liberty Street
Quincy, MA 02169

Dear Lili,

Enclosed please find a copy of our Berkeley Street Garden site plan. The locations of the Russian olives are roughly accurate. I've sited the ginkgos on 50' centers but we may want to start the row a bit closer to the Shawmut end, depending on the spread of the honey locust in the corner of the garden at that street edge.

I'd be happy to meet you at the site to clarify some of details of locating the trees if that would be helpful. Would it be possible for your specifications to include the removal of Russian olives that conflict with the location of the new trees?

Our contract through the Greengroove Program at Public Facilities includes some time for me or someone else from Boston Urban Gardeners to be on site for the tree planting. We are hoping that can be scheduled in the early spring.

The "Autumn Gold" cultivar is wide spreading and a lot more attractive than the upright varieties. They are male as well. These would be the best to specify. (I would still like to see one or two females included so that the Chinese gardeners can harvest the fruits. We'll need to talk about that.)

I will be in and out of the office after this Friday but you can either leave a message here or try me at 661-9446 if you have any questions. Or we can meet at the pool!

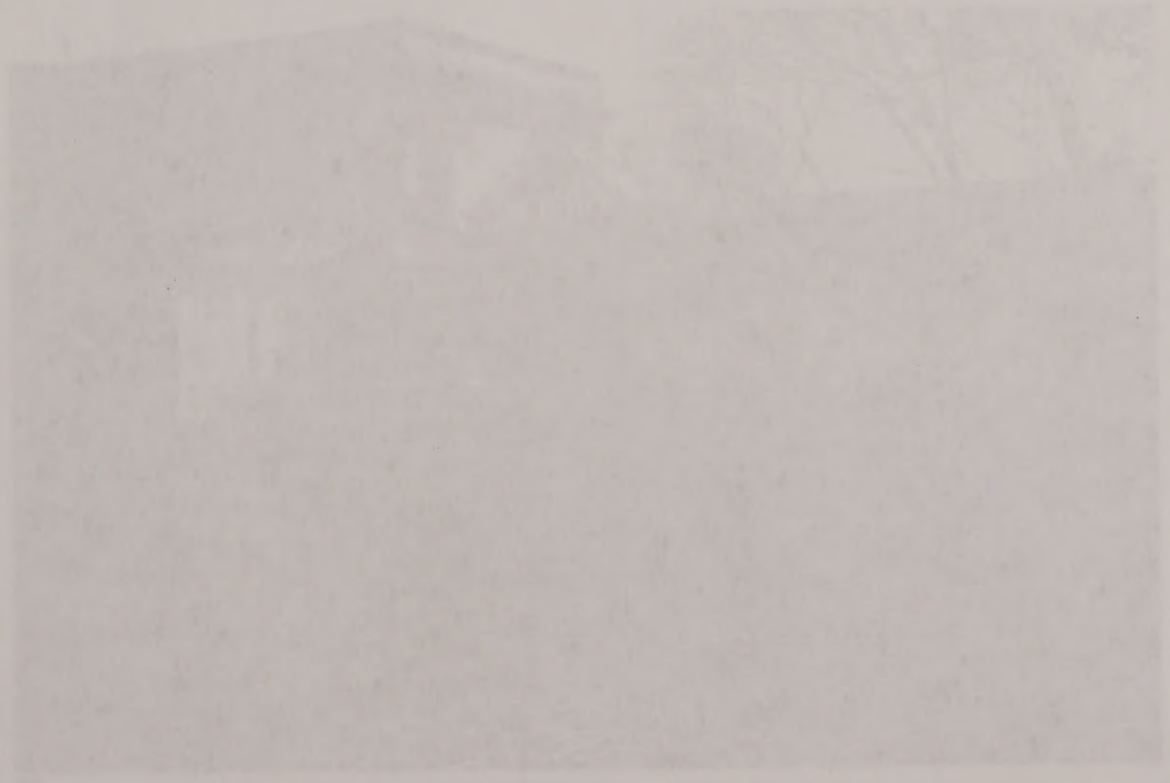
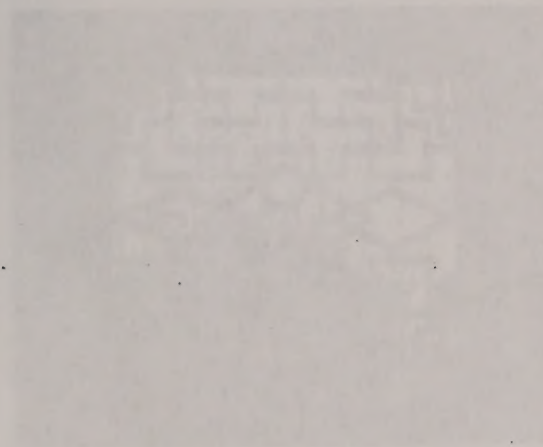
We are very pleased and excited that the trees are to be planted. As you can guess work on the garden is very slow but rewarding. The trees will make a huge difference to the overall appearance of the site and to the morale of the neighbors and gardeners, as well as the through commuters.

Thanks for all your work.

Sincerely,

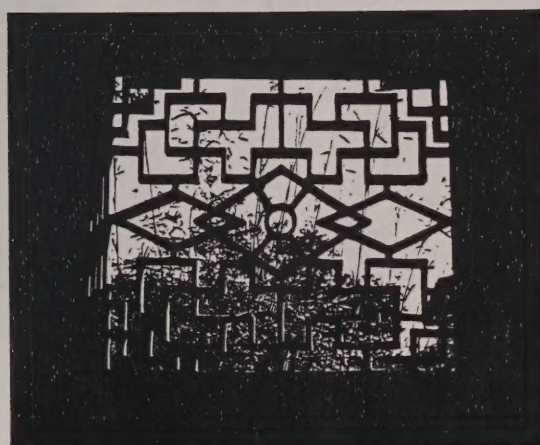
Appendix 7

Community Design Process

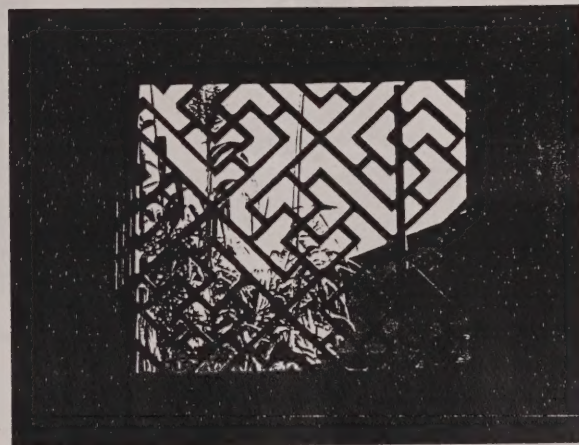




80



81



82



83

76. 「仰止亭」内の石碑にある名高い明代の文人、文徵明の像。

77. 「五百名賢祠」内部。蘇州の歴史上名高い人物500人の石刻が壁にある。

78. 「明道堂」方面に至る洞門の景。奥に見える蓮の漏窓がポイント。

79. 園内の最も南にある美しい楼閣「看山樓」。左の建物は「翠玲瓏」。

80. 外部の堀に面した複廊の景。漏窓がよく生かされている。

81. 「瑶華境界」回廊の漏窓。

82. 同上

83. 外部から見た複廊と、堀に張り出した「観魚処」。

76. Drawing of Wen Zhengming (1470-1559), a Ming-dynasty scholar-artist, located in the Yangzhi-ting. The small writing on the left gives the date as 1754.

77. The Wubaimingxian-ci, or "memorial to the 500 wise ones." Stone carvings by 500 prominent residents of Suzhou of the past 2,000 years are seen along the inner walls.

78. Open gateway leading to the Mingdao-tang, formerly a scholastic building. The openwork window is in the shape of a lotus blossom.

79. The Kanshan-lou, the southernmost garden building. The building in the foreground is the Cuilinglong.

80. Openwork windows of the double corridor built along the moat. Openwork window of the Yaohuajingjie.

82. Another openwork window in the same building.

83. View of the outside of the double corridor along the moat. The small roofed structure is a platform for viewing fish in the moat.

太湖石・他

Tai-hu Stones, etc.

江南庭園で最も多用される石は、太湖石と英石である。ただ、一石の形を尊重して主石や飾り石とする石は古来太湖石を第一とする。名高い文人等に愛された名石には、太湖石以外の石も多少は見られる。今日江南では、四大名石というべきものがあり、この内杭州のものは太湖石ではない。

Tai-hu stones (taifu-shi) are large pieces of limestone taken from Tai-hu lake, located in Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces. Stones began to be chiseled out during the Northern Song and had become scarce by the Ming; taking new stones from the lake is illegal today. The interesting shapes are the result of erosion. Four factors make up a good stone: slenderness, folds in the surface, impermeability to water, and a large number of holes. Two rarer types of stone are also depicted below. Figures 346—349 show the "four great stones" of Jiangnan.



346 旧織造署(蘇州市)の太湖石「瑞雲峰」(四大名石の一)
The Ruiyun-feng, a Tai-hu stone (former Weaving Bureau, Suzhou)



347 留園(蘇州市)の太湖石「冠雲峰」(四大名石の一)
Guanyun-feng, a Tai-hu stone (Liu-yuan, Suzhou)



348 豫園(上海市)の太湖石「玉玲瓏」(四大名石の一)
Yulinglong, a Tai-hu stone (Yu-yuan, Shanghai)



349 花園(杭州市)の英石「縉雲峰」(四大名石の一)
Zhouyun-feng, a ying-shi stone (Hua-pu, Hangzhou)



350 文瀾閣(杭州市)の太湖石「仙人峰」
Xianren-feng, a Tai-hu stone (Wenlan-ge, Hangzhou)



351 網師園(蘇州市)にある雲壁石の名石
A lingbi-shi stone (Wangshi-yuan, Suzhou)

PERGOLAS, TUNNELS AND COLONNADES

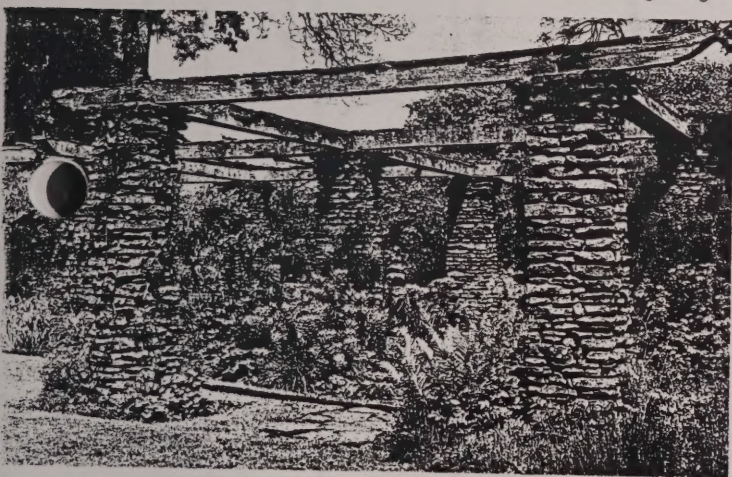
A path is transformed if it runs through a tunnel of plants. The sensation is best in strong sunlight, passing from bright to dappled shade, cool and heady with scent, with leaves and flowers lit from above in many shades of green. The idea derives from vine-growing practice, and tubular metal makes the modern equivalent of fine medieval carpenter's work. In summer the result is dreamy whatever the frame; but in winter the basic structure becomes more prominent, so let it be handsome.



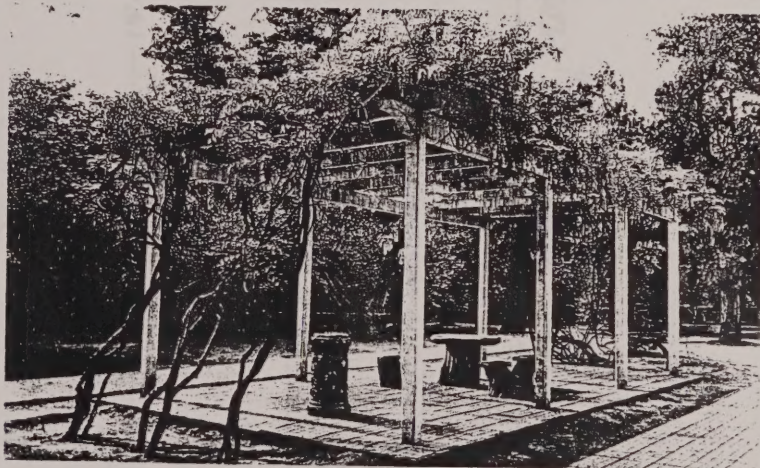
This fine brick colonnade is so smothered in wisteria that it is beginning to lose its identity.



Vines trained over horizontal timber spars make a shady place for summer walks.



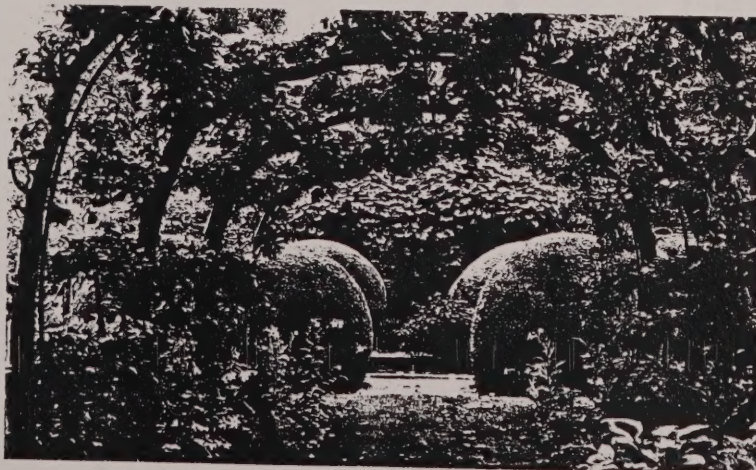
Stone columns supporting this pergola have a strong texture not entirely matched by the structure above – at least until it is covered by ramblers.



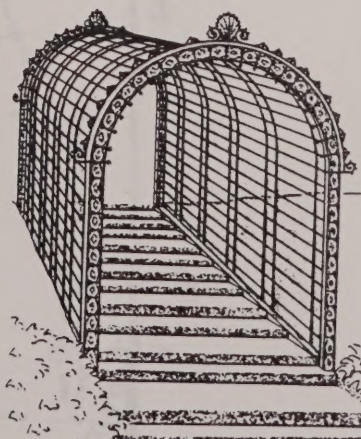
A plain-looking concrete pergola in Peking, with a wisteria giving its best under difficult conditions.



An elegant archway with an interesting curvilinear form.



An apple tunnel at Heale House, Wiltshire. There are big box balls at the end, waiting to pounce.



A metal tunnel sloping over steps, interesting with or without foliage.

500

450

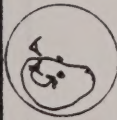
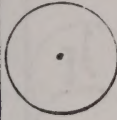
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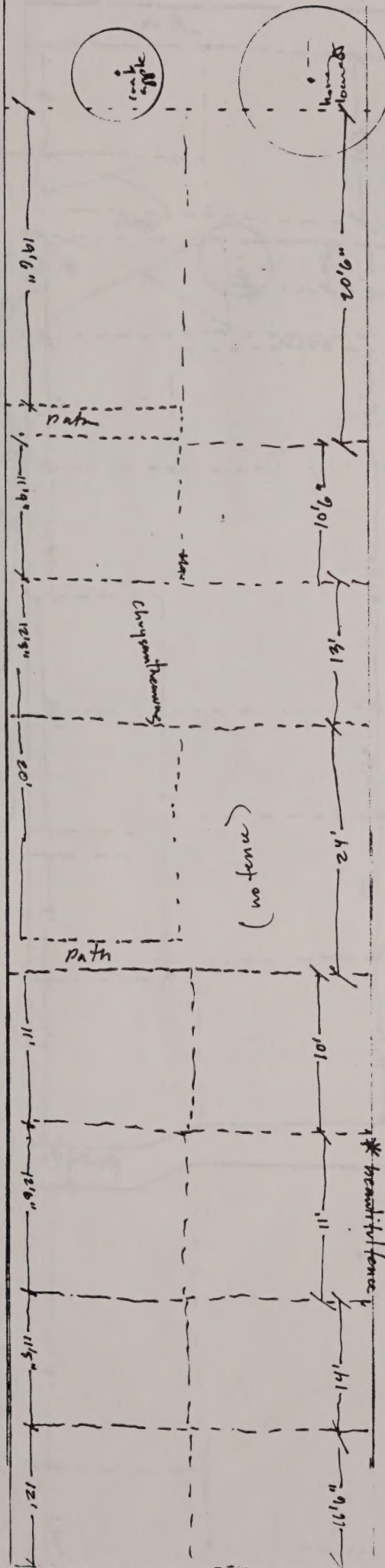
10'-5"

10'

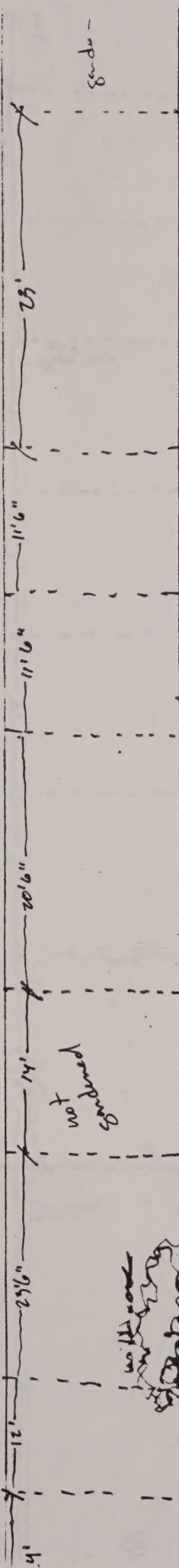
60'



25
32



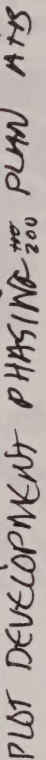
X H7D



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(m) 2652-924-927





Public Facilities
Department

Letter from the City of Boston
Stephanie E. Bothwell
Senior Landscape Architect
Urban Design Unit

15 Beacon Street, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 720-4300 Ext. 345
(617) 725-3570

BAMBOOS

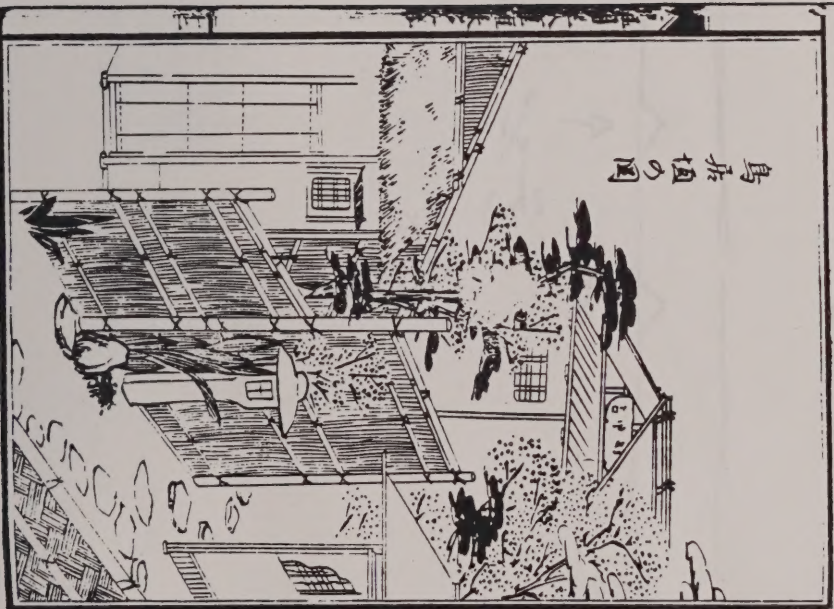
February 23 and 24, 1989

*Tullie -
please let me
know when
you have a
preliminary plan
together - we can
review. Thanks -*

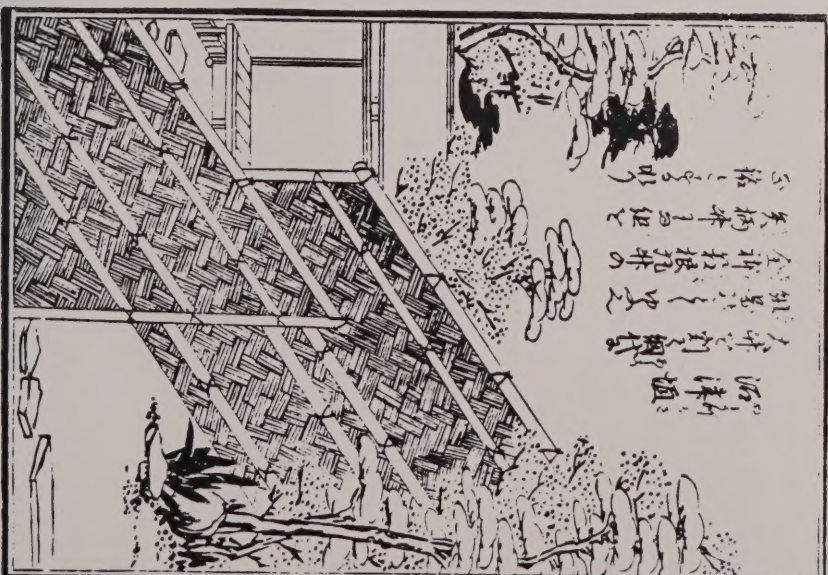
A plant-design symposium sponsored by
The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard

in cooperation with

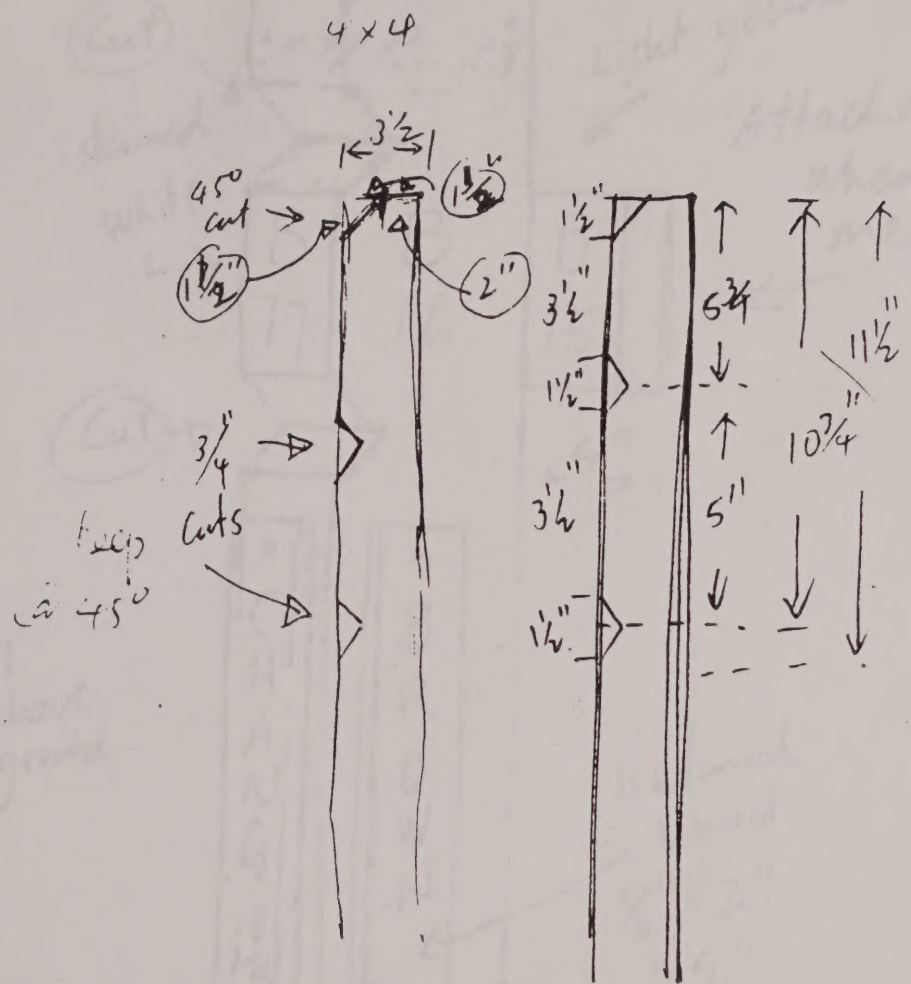
The New York Botanical Garden



鳥居垣の園

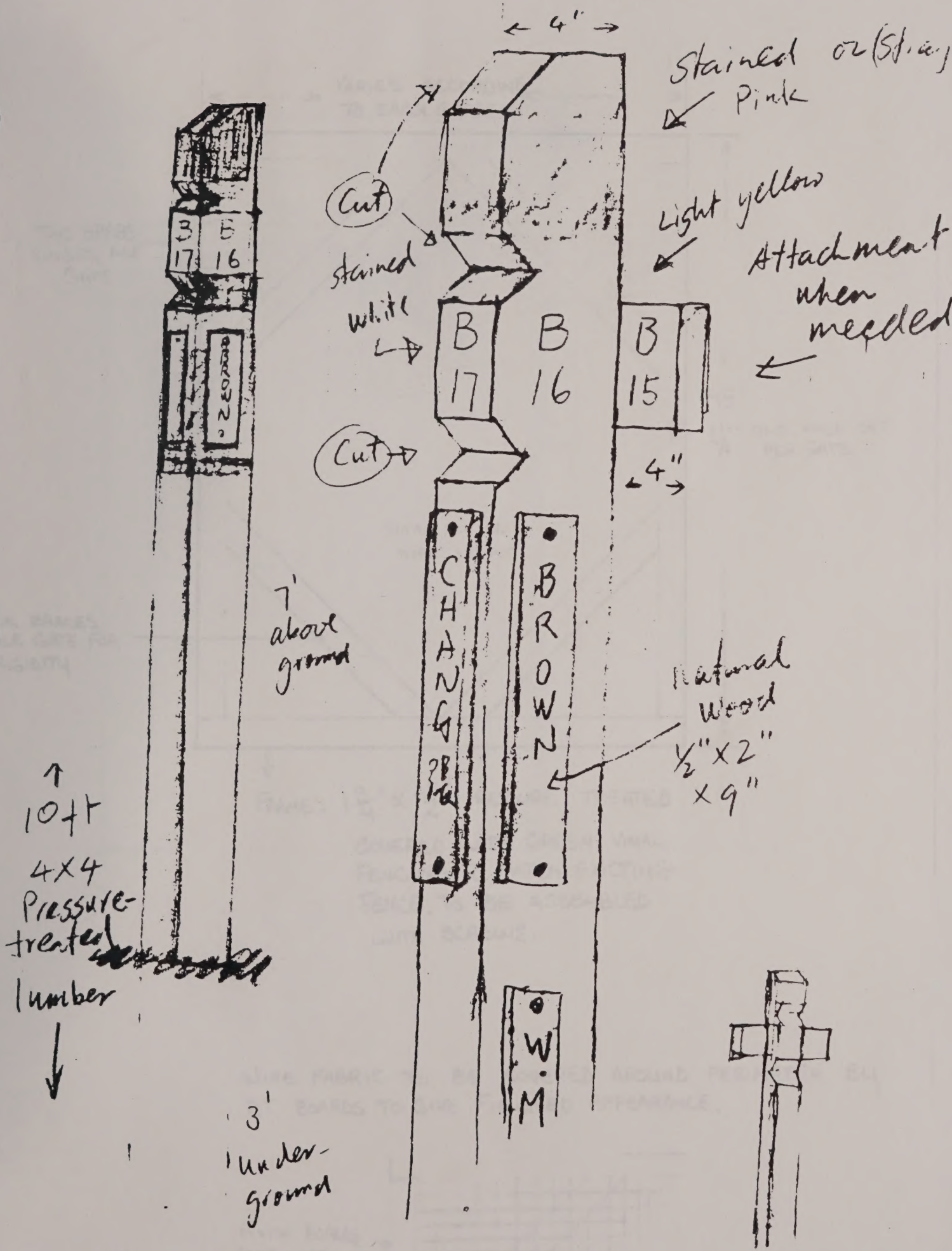


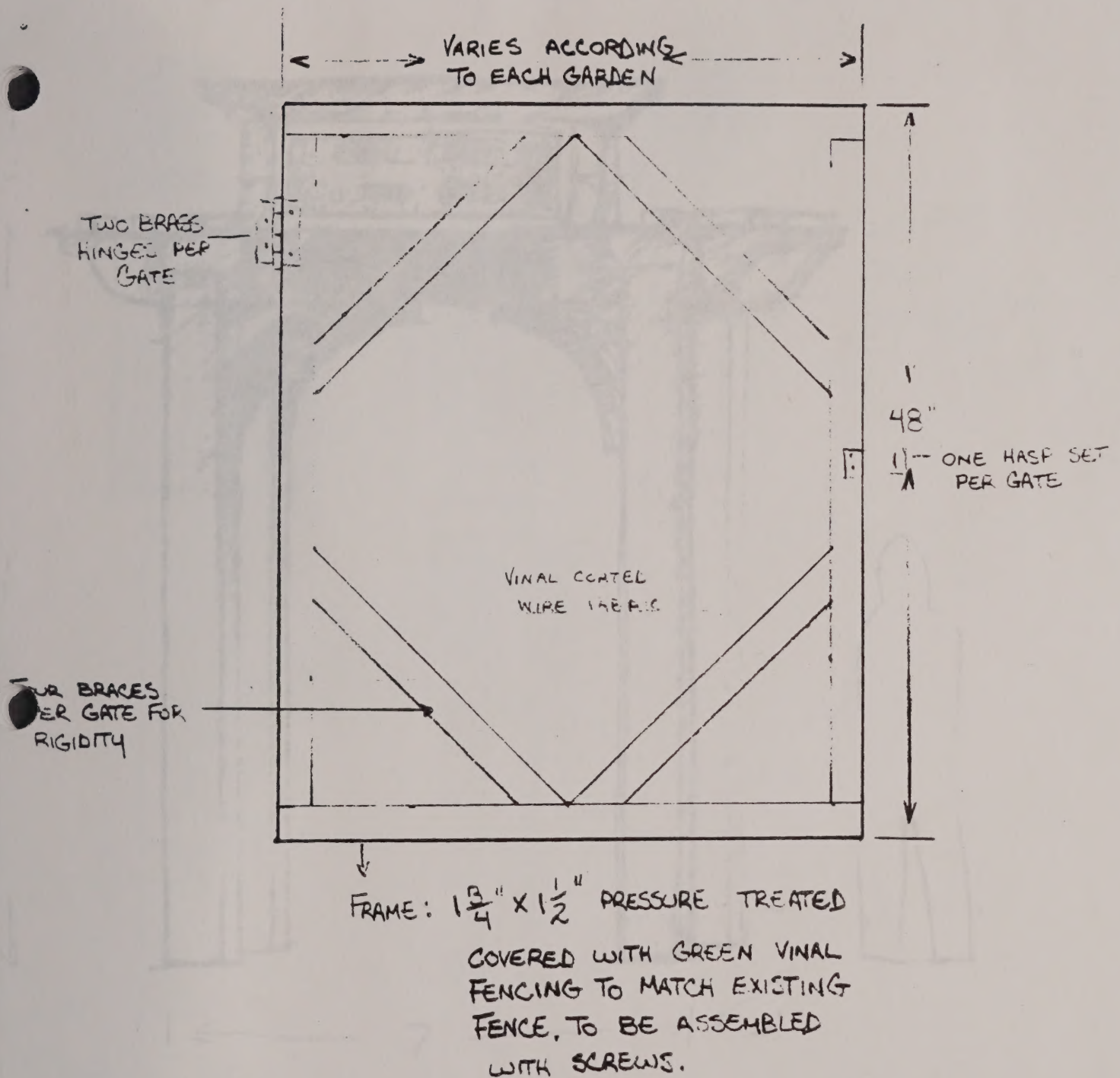
源氏
津和野
大井と利根
乳岩と中之
全所お堀池の
矢柄井と白蛇と
ふゆとるり



↑
104T
4x4
Pressure
treated
lumber

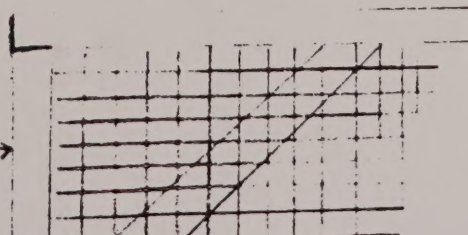
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under
ground

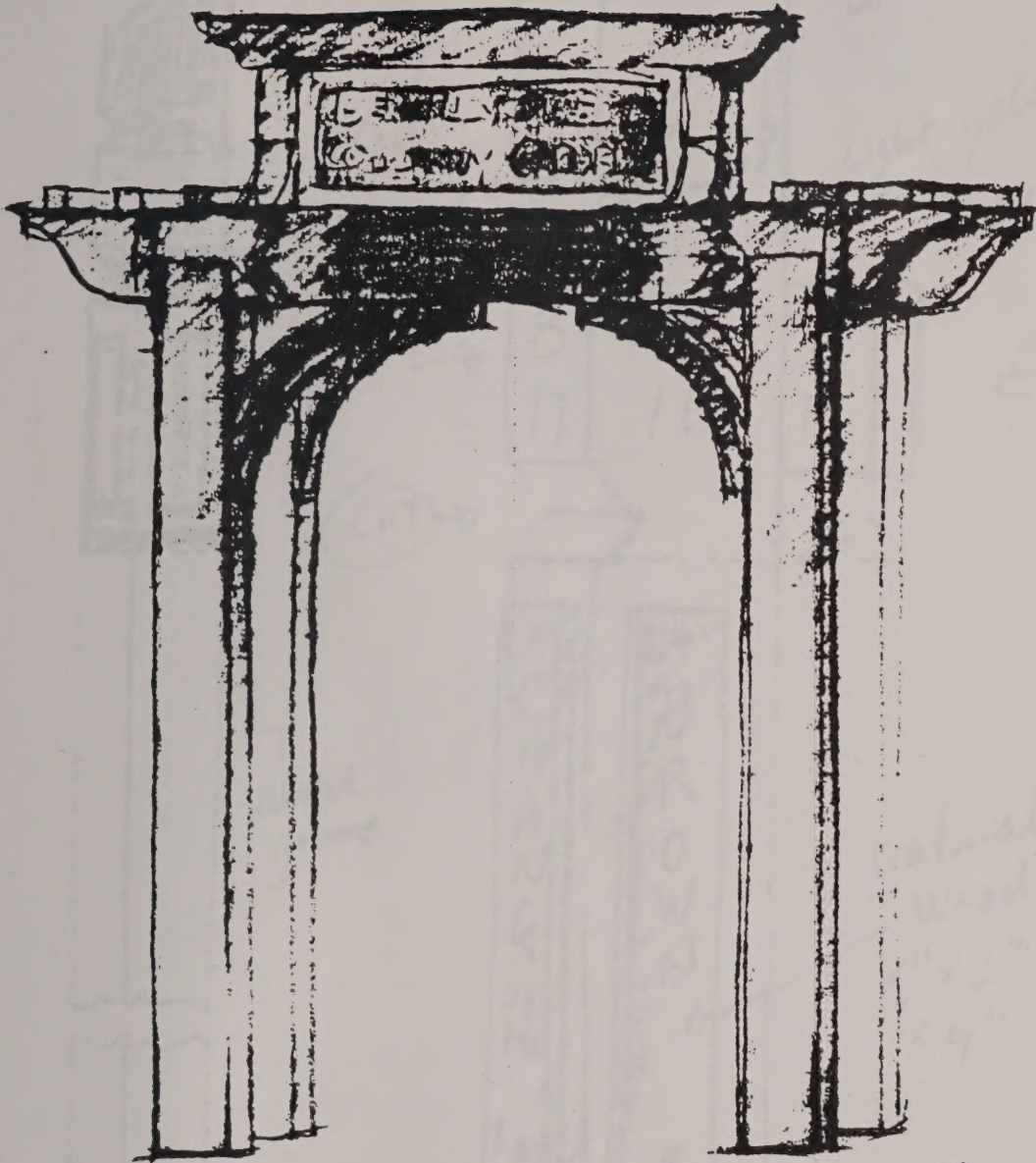




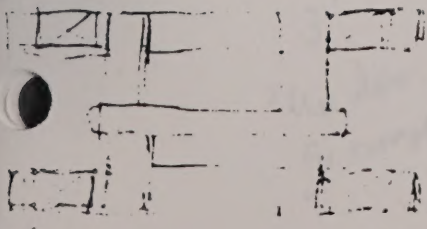
WIRE FABRIC TO BE COVERED AROUND PERIMETER BY P.T. BOARDS TO GIVE FINISHED APPEARANCE.

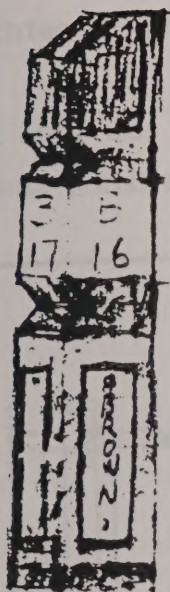
FINISH BOARDS
SAME WIDTH AS
FRAME.





← 7' →





Cut

stained white

B 17 B 16

B 15

Light yellow

Attachment when needed

Cut

4"

7' above ground

CHANG BROWN

Natural Wood
1/2" x 2" x 9"

↑
0+1
4x4
PRESSURE-
treated
lumber

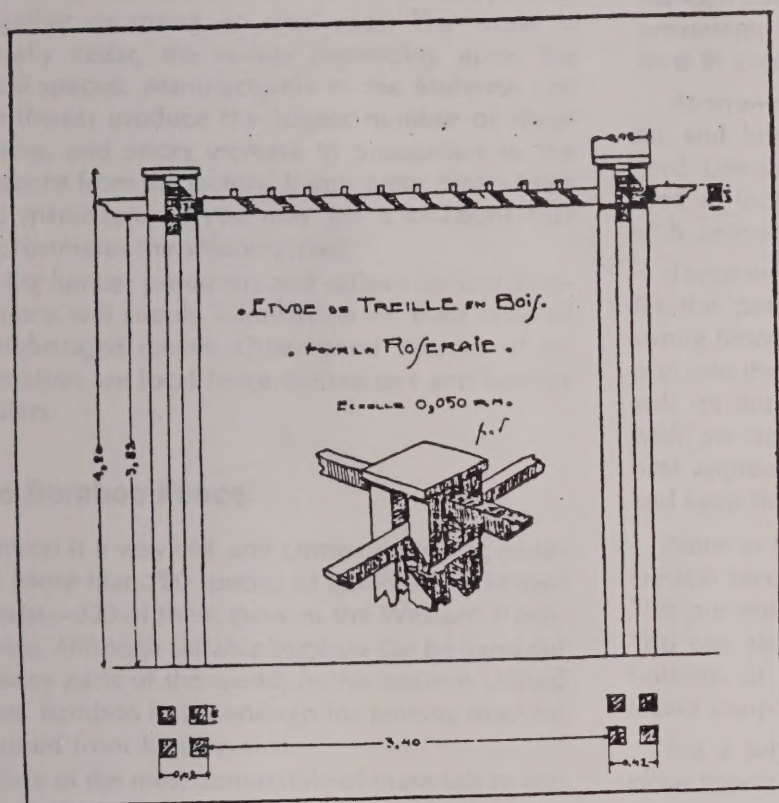
3'
Under-ground

W.M.



racines puissent se développer sans être gênées par la maçonnerie du scellement qu'elles n'aiment guère. C'est à ces menues précautions que le jardin devra la saine doctrine des plantes et, en définitive, sa vraie beauté.

Les arceaux sont des éléments isolés de treilles ou de berceaux; mais qu'ils sont constitués par les seuls végétaux — Ifs, Cyprès,



ou par des supports apparents revêtus de plantes grimpantes — Vigne-vierge, Rosier, Clématite, Chèvrefeuille, Glycine, Tecoma,

C'est un charmant décor que les arcs formés par les branches de d'un Coudrier, d'un Sureau, d'un Faux-Ébénier ou, dans le cas de Myoporum, de Faux-Poivrier (*Schinus molle*), d'Acacias-Mimosas, de Rosiers-Roses, — sinon de Cyprès, d'Ifs ou de Charmilles — réunies au-dessus d'un passage, que des arceaux de Rosiers grimpants, de Lierre, de Chèvrefeuilles, de Vigne-vierges, de Lierres, de Clématites

surface texture of a closely spaced picket fence which complements growing plants and vines, and forms an effective barrier in the yard. It is also very durable, and weathers attractively.

This type of prefabricated fencing is available in several styles: peeled, machine finished, or complete with bark; round or half-round; wired together or strung on steel rods. The wood is usually cedar, the variety depending upon the local species. Manufacturers in the Midwest and Northwest produce the largest number of these fences, and prices increase in proportion to the distance from the factory. If you order direct from the manufacturer, you may get a discount that approximates the shipping costs.

Big lumber producers and various lumber associations will supply information on their lines of prefabricated fences. Other good sources of information are local fence contractors and lumber dealers.

The Bamboo Fence

Bamboo is a very old and common fencing material. More than 700 species of bamboo are known to exist—200 of them grow in the Western Hemisphere. Although suitable bamboo can be hand cut in many parts of the world, in the western United States bamboo husky enough for fencing must be obtained from lumberyards.

One of the most compatible of materials to use in a garden, bamboo is used most effectively in fences as a contrasting panel alternating with finished lumber. However, all-bamboo fences can be

extremely attractive if placed in the right situation and garden.

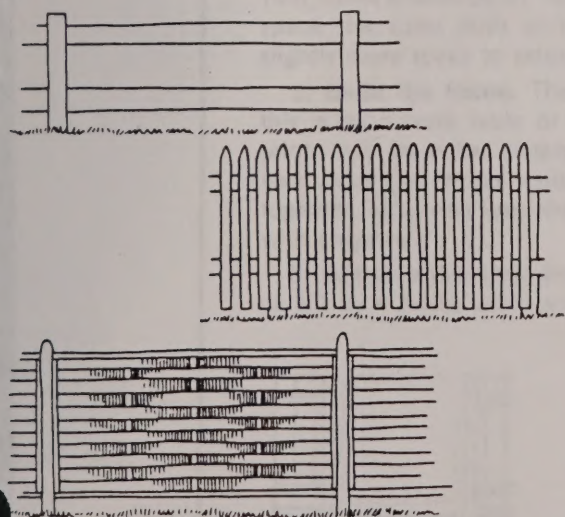
Bamboo can be lashed together with any type of wire or heavy cord. (Bamboo cannot be nailed, as it will split.) The Japanese often use *shuro nawa*, a dark, fuzzy twine that contrasts attractively with the light color of bamboo. *Shuro nawa* can be approximated by dipping any heavy, fuzzy wrapping cord in creosote.

As shown in the drawing below, you lash vertical and horizontal members together with the cord. Use a plain square knot and let the ends extend an inch or so. Tie horizontal pieces to posts with several lashings.

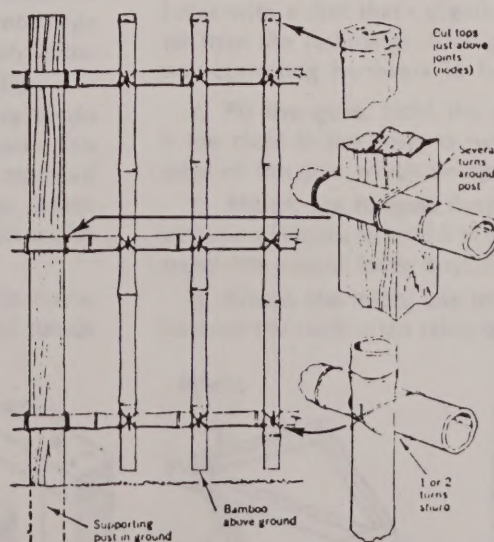
Large timber bamboo or several smaller culms (as the poles are called) lashed together make strong fence posts, but if you sink untreated bamboo into the ground to serve as a post, it probably will rot out within two or three years. If treated with pentachlorophenol, it will last longer. The best approach is to use wood posts for support and keep the bamboo off the ground.

Note in the drawing that you cut the tops of vertical pieces of bamboo just above the joints. This prevents rain and dust from collecting inside. You can also cut the ends at an angle with the bottoms of the slants just above the joints. This leaves sharp ends to discourage climbers.

For a privacy screen, you can lash the culms close together instead of spacing them. Another Japanese custom is to erect two open-spaced fences 1 to 3 feet apart and plant a hedge between them.



READY TO ASSEMBLE fence panels are sold in variety of styles. Illustrated are rail, picket, basketweave.



TYPICAL CONSTRUCTION of bamboo fence shows vertical, horizontal members lashed together with cord.

gate, are fun to devise, do not rust, and are easily replaced if they wear out or break.

Remember that the latch must take rough treatment. A flimsy one, put on with small nails or screws, won't last long. If you want to keep children from opening the gate, get a latch that you can set up high or on top of the fence.

Choice of hinges. The principal cause of gate failure is inadequate hinges. It is better to choose an overly strong hinge than one not strong enough. Hinges, like latches, have to be considered in terms of the gate siding. It would be impossible, for ex-

ample, to mount heavy strap hinges on a gate paneled in translucent plastic. Sometimes you'll want to buy hinges that match the latch, which may call for a revision in the gate design. If a fence is used to confine small children, self-closing hinges are a worthwhile investment. Springs in the hinge mechanism automatically close the gate, which otherwise might be left ajar by visitors or deliverymen.

Some of the more familiar hinges are illustrated below. All of them do a good job, providing they are sized for the weight of the gate, and if you use screws that are long enough. Many of the packaged

HOW TO BUILD A GATE

Ornate or simple, all gates must meet one common requirement—they must work simply and easily. Building a good, workable gate requires extra care and attention to detail. Here is a gate building project for you to follow—from the first step straight through to the self-satisfying stage of opening and closing the gate for the first time. The steps are as follows:

1. **Determine the gate size.** First measure the space between the gate posts at both the top and the bottom (if it varies considerably you'll have to plumb the posts before you can hang a gate). Plan your frame width one inch less than this opening—for a three-foot opening the width of your frame should be 35" to give swing and hinge space (for gates built of heavy material, allow slightly more space to assure free swinging).

2. **Build the frame.** The simplest way to do this is on a work table or any flat surface. The joints may be either simply lapped or mortised (see page 23). When nailing the frame pieces together, be sure to keep the frame at right angles with a square.

3. **Attach a diagonal brace.** Place the frame on a 2 by 4 (to be used as the brace) and pencil

in the sawing marks. For a tight fit, saw the 2 by 4 so that you leave the pencil marks on the brace. Attach the brace at both ends by nailing through both the horizontal and vertical rails.

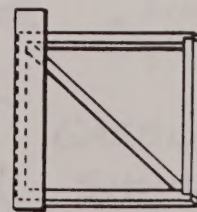
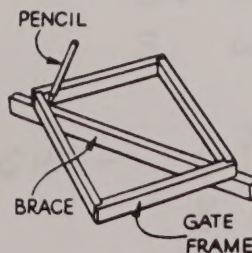
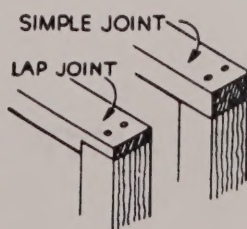
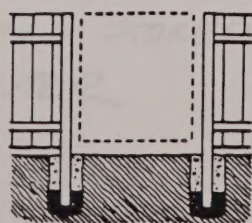
4. **Attach the siding.** Starting at the hinge side of the frame, nail boards or pickets as determined by spacing design and spacing. The distances between pickets or the widths of solid boards may have to be varied from the rest of the fence to get even spacing. (Siding can also be attached after the gate is hung if the completed gate will be too heavy to be manageable otherwise.)

5. **Attach the hinges.** Drill nail and screw holes with a drill that's slightly smaller in diameter than the fastenings. (Use galvanized or other non-corroding hardware in building your gate.)

6. **Fit the gate.** Hold the gate in place. If it is too close to the posts to swing freely, trim the edge of the gate which swings open until it fits.

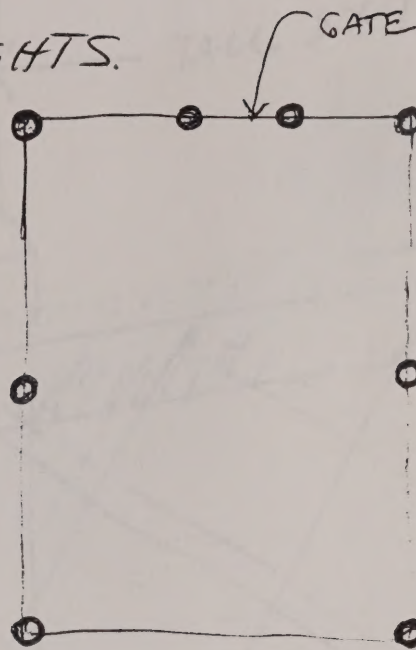
7. **Attach the hinges.** Prop the gate in place with wood blocks to hold it in proper position and attach the hinges' loose ends to the post.

8. **Attach the latch.** Use long screws or bolts, because the latch often takes quite a beating.



ACCURATE PLANS are necessary in order to build a strong and working gate. For a tight-fitting diagonal brace, mark lines as shown and saw on the outer edge of the marks.

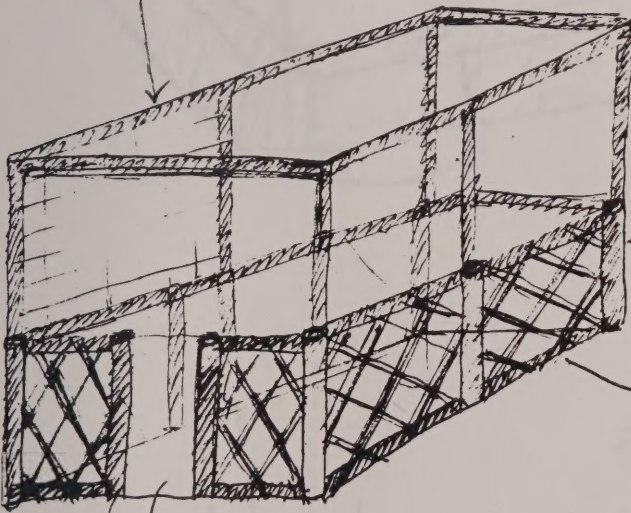
ATTEMPTS AT "PREFAB" THOUGHTS.



8' 2x4
4' LATTICE STRIPS
6' FENCE POST
SUNK 2' IN
GROUND - LEAVING
4' ABOVE
BOLTS
PNEUMATIC ^{GUN} STAPLES
FOR WIRE &
LATTICE

THIS COULD
HAVE GREEN WIRE
FENCING (4') ALL
AROUND TOP FOR
SECURITY & VINES

50'



2x4 BOLTED
FRAMES FOR
VINES

4'
ROUND FENCE POSTS

STANDARDIZED
LATTICE 4' HIGH

GATE

ALL 2x4'S COULD BE UNBOLTED &
TAKEN DOWN & STORED
DURING WINTER

PRESERVATIVE
STAIN

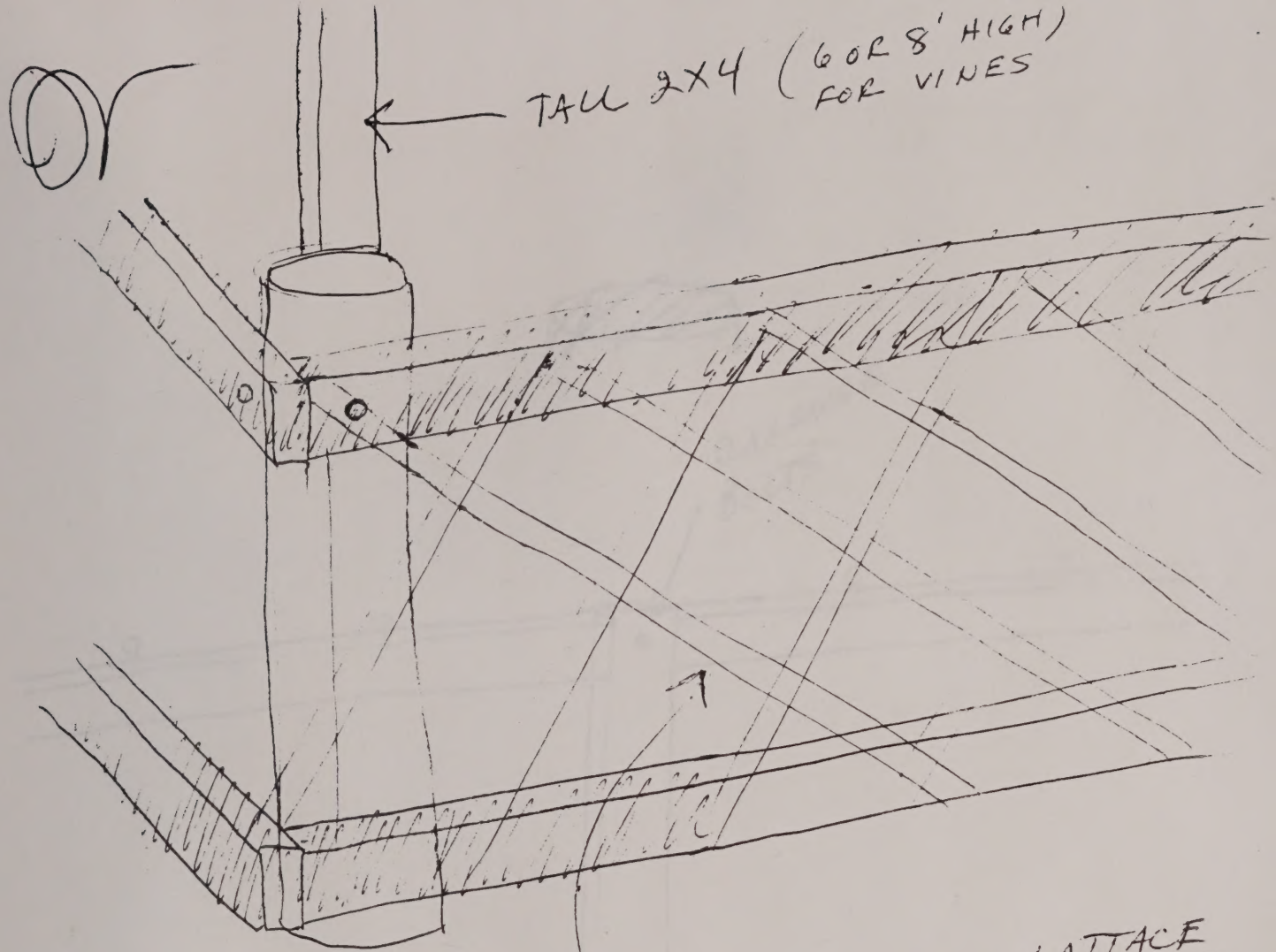
1. GREEN -
2. GREY
3. WHITE

18TH CENTURY
GREEN WAS
COPPERY IN
COLOR - GREAT
↓
LIKE
"OLD WESTBURY
GARDENS"

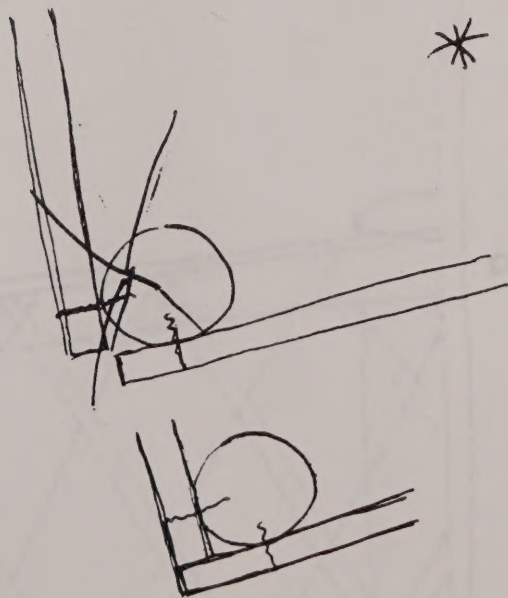
TOTAL HEIGHT -

6?
8?

GARDNERS
SHOULD
DECIDE ON
ONE HEIGHT

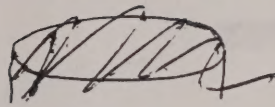


- VERY OPEN LATTICE
 TO SAVE TIME & WOOD
 * BOTTOM 4' MUST BE
 THE SAME ON ALL
 GARDENS TO ALLOW FOR
 PREFAB (100+ GARDENS!)
 OR EASE & SPEED OF
 MAKING THEM UP.
 ALSO IMPORTANT TO
 CREATE ^{SOME} VISUAL CONTINUITY
 & UNITY
 ON SUCH A LARGE
 GARDEN AREA!

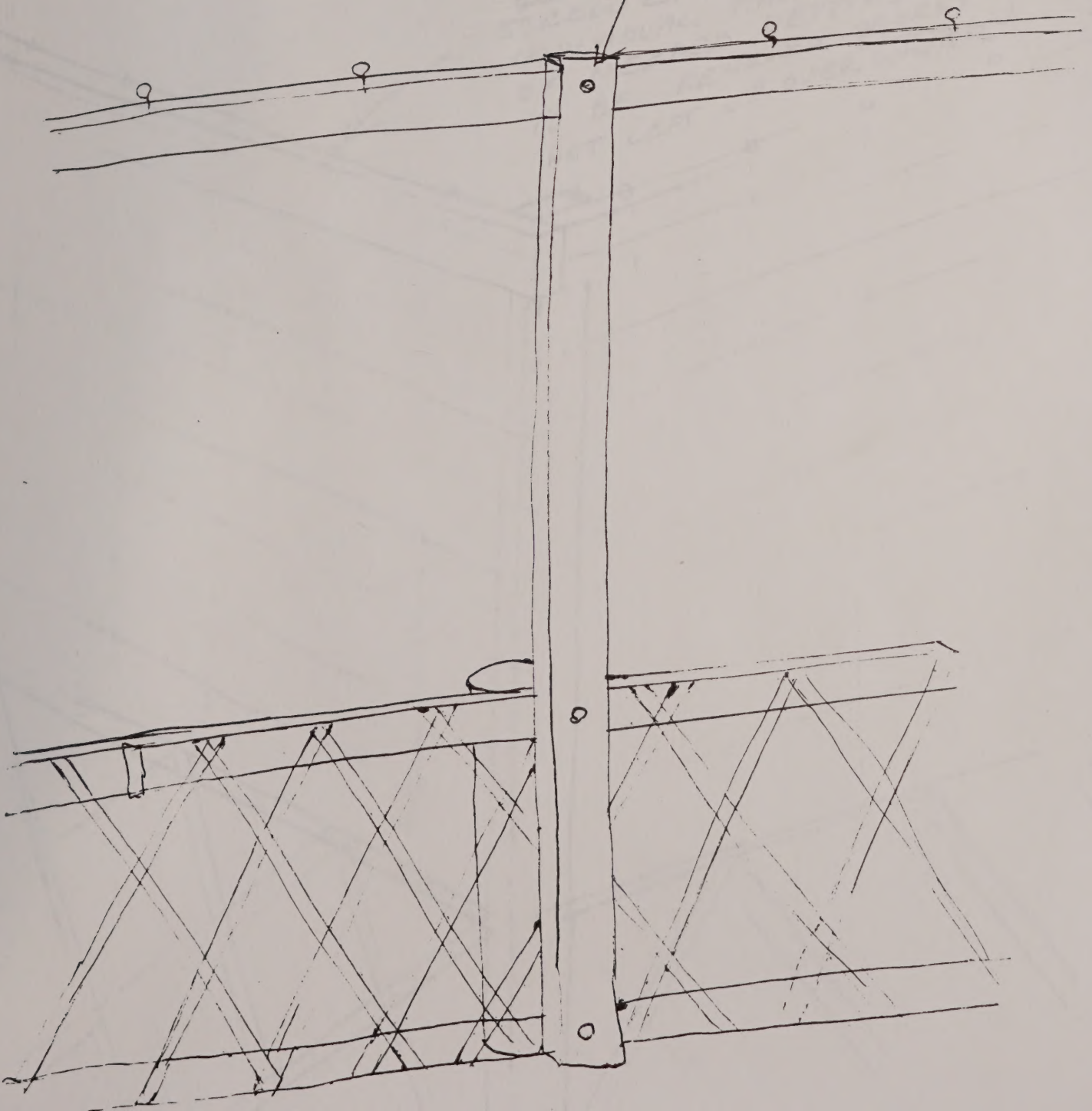


THREE FLOORING 9
TWO LOTS FOR 3 TOP LINE SUPPORT

NO. 12 2ND LINE



CARRIAGE
BOLTS



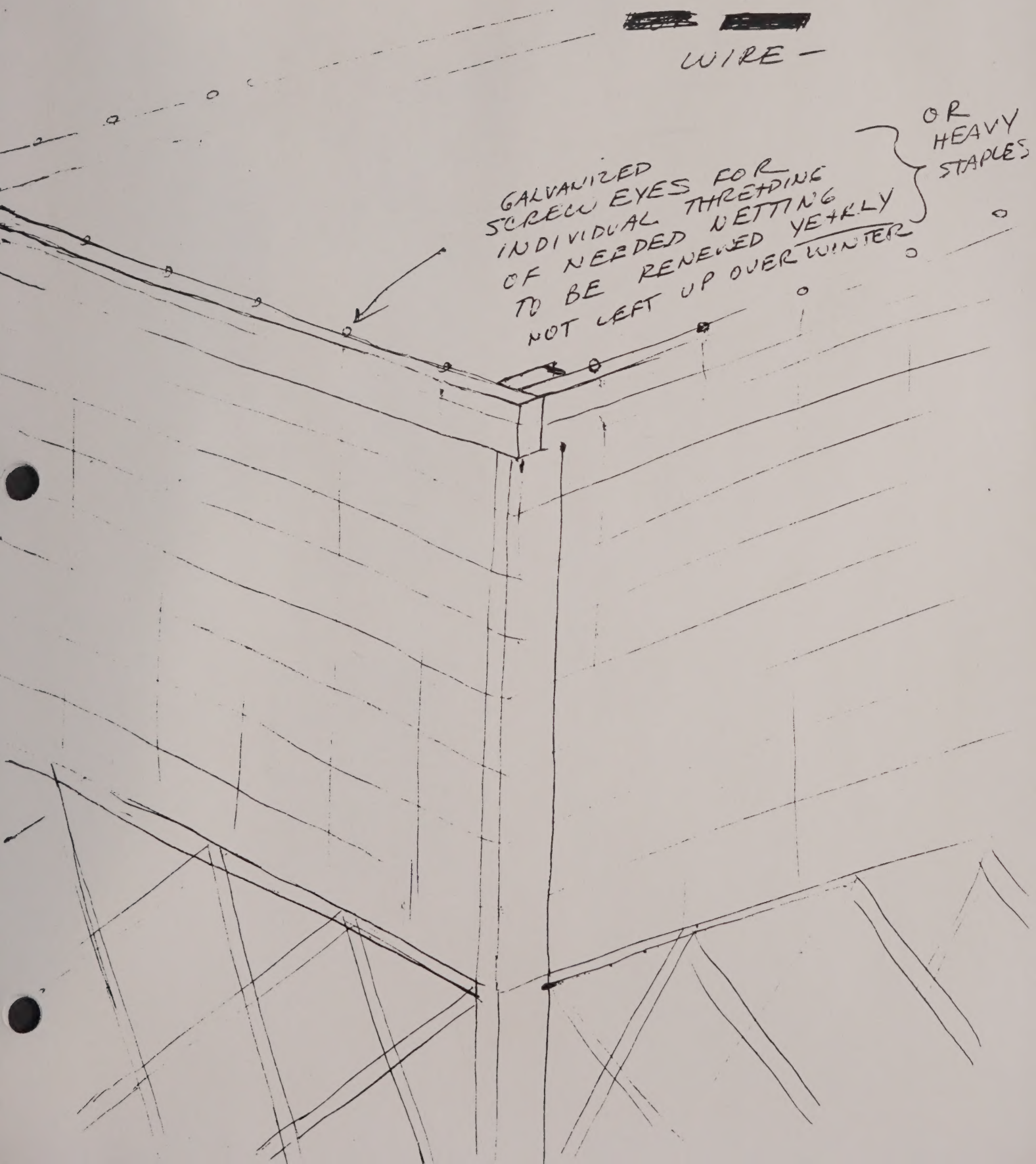
THOUGHTS FOR } THIEF PROOFING &
TOP VINE SUPPORT

HEAVY DARK TWINE

~~WIRE~~
WIRE -

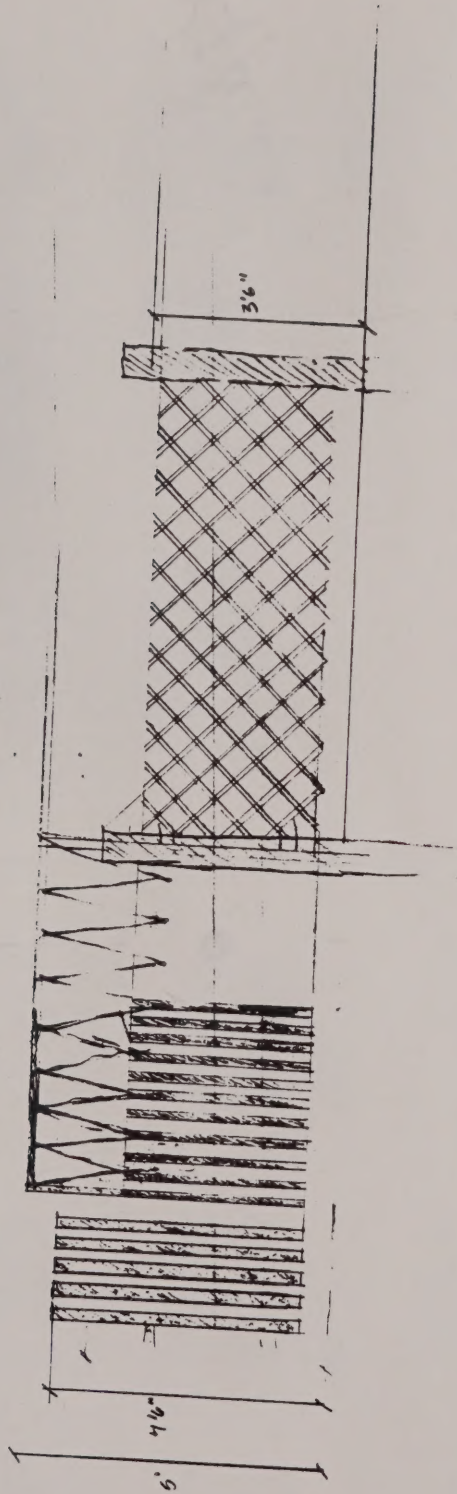
GALVANIZED
SCREW EYES FOR
INDIVIDUAL THREDDING
OF NEEDED NETTING
TO BE RENEWED YEARLY
NOT LEFT UP OVER WINTER

OR
HEAVY
STAPLES

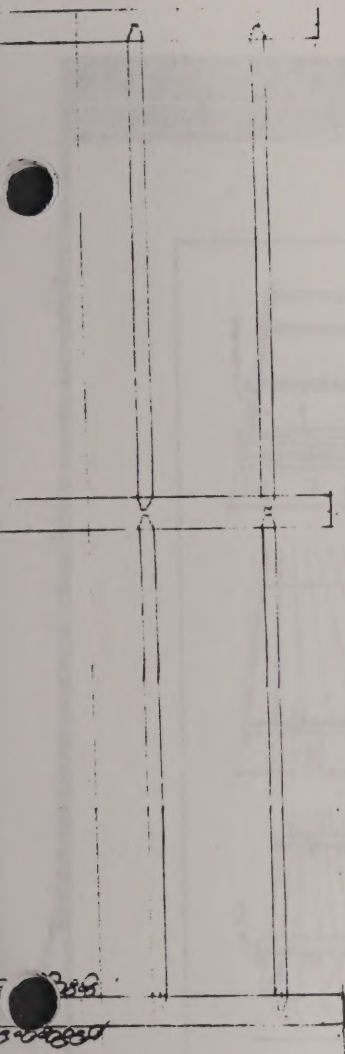




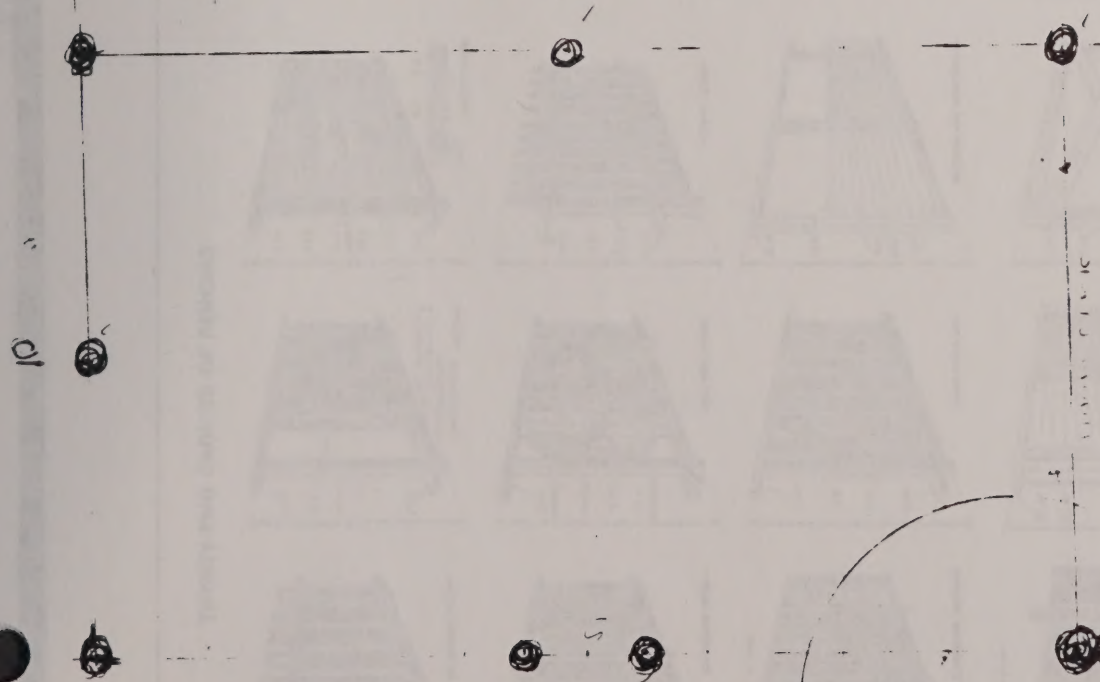
CHURCH FOUNDED - 1870



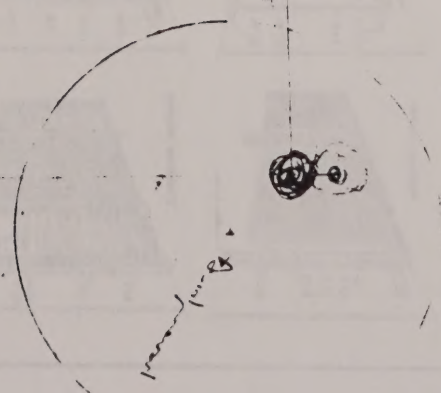
GARDEN FENCING ALTERNATIVES
1990



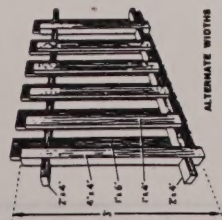
Handwritten notes or scribbles, possibly indicating a specific feature or measurement.



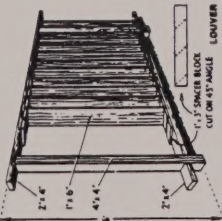
WORKING DRAWING
FOR INDIVIDUAL GARDEN
PLOT 1970



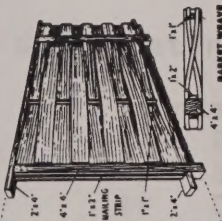
TWENTY-TWO CHOICES OF FENCING



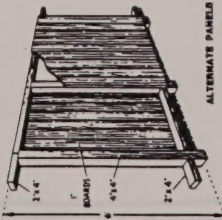
ALTERNATE WIDTHS



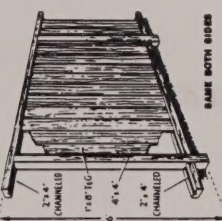
LOUVER



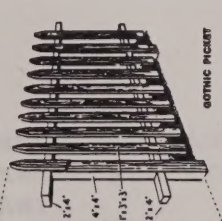
BARREL WEAVE



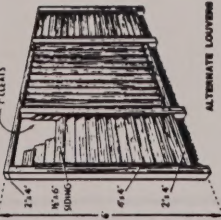
ALTERNATE PANEL



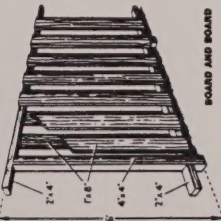
SAME BOTH SIDES



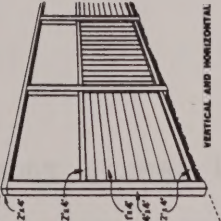
GOthic PICKET



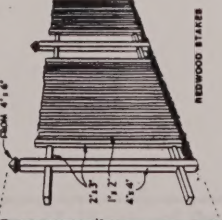
ALTERNATE LOUVER



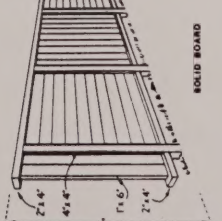
ROUND AND BOARD



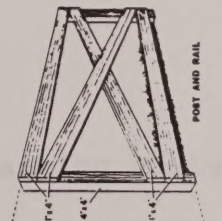
VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL



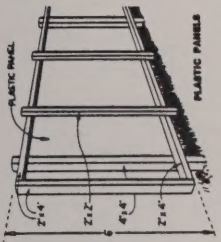
REDWOOD STAKE



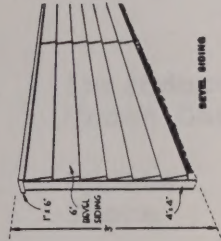
SOLID BOARD



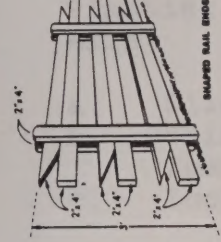
POST AND RAIL



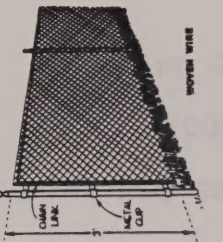
PLASTIC PANELS



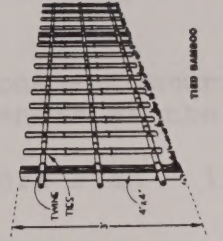
BEVEL SIDING



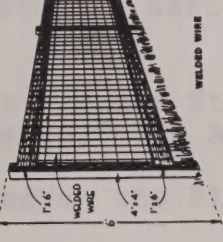
SHAPEd RAIL END



WOVEN WIRE



TIED BAMBOO

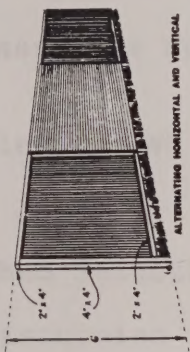


WELDED WIRE

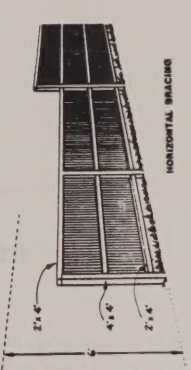
GRAPESTAKE FENCING VARIATIONS



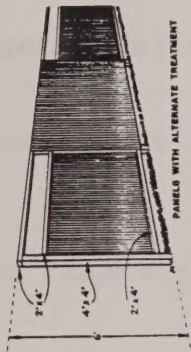
HORIZONTAL MEMBERS AT TOP



ALTERNATING HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL



HORIZONTAL BRACING



PANELS WITH ALTERNATE TREATMENT



Boston Urban Gardeners at the Community Farm
46 Chestnut Avenue, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 (617) 522-1259

AGENDA

Meeting January 30, 1992

6:00 to 7:30 pm
Host: Roger Stearns
288 Shawmut Avenue

Berkeley Street Community Garden

1. Introductions - Community Gardeners, Neighbors, Boston Urban Gardeners at the Community Farm (BUG/Farm)
2. Update: Work Plan - 1992 Grassroots Budget - Julie Stone
3. Planting Design - East Berkeley Street and Dwight Street Alley
 - a. Slides - Julie Stone
 - b. Things to Think About When Selecting Plants - Mike Immel
 - c. Looking at the Plan - Discussion
4. Homework
 - a. Visit the site
 - b. List of Plants
5. Next Meeting
 - a. Agenda
 - 1) Plant Selection
 - 2) Shawmut and Tremont Street Planting Design
 - 3) Other
 - b. Date, Time, Place

Thank You



STEARNS/FARINELLA

THE WORKSHOP
288 SHAWMUT AVENUE
BOSTON, MA 02118

TEL. (617) 426-4392

11/27/90

DEAR MR YEE

I JUST WANTED TO GIVE YOU AN UPDATE AND SAY THAT I HOPE YOU ARE FEELING BETTER. WE MISSED YOU + MRS YAN AT THE LAST GARDEN COMMITTEE MEETING.

FOUR POINTS FROM THE GARDEN COMMITTEE:

- ①, WE DISCUSSED HOW TO MAKE THE GARDEN LOOK AS NICE AS POSSIBLE FOR THE GENERAL COMMUNITY DURING THE WINTER AND ALL AGREED THAT BY TAKING AWAY THE BRIGHT COLORED PLASTIC PIECES + REMOVING THE WHITE BUCKETS THAT THE GARDEN WOULD BE LESS VISUALLY "BUSY" AND MORE NATURAL.
- ②. ALL LOCKS MUST BE REMOVED TO ALLOW NEW INTERNAL DIVIDING FENCE WIRE IN THE VERY EARLY SPRING. WE MUST TELL THE GARDNERS THAT EVENTHOUGH THEY KEEP THE SAME PLOT FROM YEAR TO YEAR THAT WE DO NOT ACTUALLY OWN THE LAND. WE ONLY RENT IT.

③ WE DISCUSSED LIMITING EACH GARDNER TO TWO PLOTS, EACH ONE WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 10' X 15' AS WE ALL HAD YEARS AGO. ANY NEW GARDNERS FROM 1991 ON WILL RECEIVE ONLY ONE PLOT IN A LOTTERY, AS THIS IS A VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEM WE THINK THAT DURING THE EARLY SPRING (FEB/MARCH) WE SHOULD HAVE A GENERAL GARDEN MEETING FOR ALL GARDNERS WITH A TRANSLATOR TO TELL THEM EVERYTHING THAT HAS GONE ON & LET THEM KNOW WHAT CHANGES ARE COMING FOR 1991/92.

ALL GARDENS SHOULD HAVE THE PLANT SUPPORTS TAKEN DOWN & BUNDLED UP & PLANTS SHOULD BE TAKEN UP OR CUT DOWN FOR A NEAT & CLEAN GARDEN FOR THE WINTER, THIS MUST BE DONE BY DEC 15TH & SOME GARDNERS WILL NEED HELP FROM THEIR FAMILIES BECAUSE OF THE COLD.

FROM B.U.G.

JULIE STONE, BILL MCCARTHY, BARBARA ANDERSON & MYSELF WALKED THRU THE GARDEN WITH THE B.U.G. ARCHITECT CAROL DARBYSHIRE TO WORK OUT SOME NEW AREAS FOR PLANTING & BEAUTIFICATION. I WOULD LIKE TO SHOW YOU THE PLAN FOR THE NEW "PHASE TWO" GRANT WHICH WE HOPE TO GET

IN THE SPRING 1991, WE ALL AGREED THAT
THE FIRST PRIORITY WAS TO FINISH ALL OF THE
GARDEN FENCES AND THE WALKWAY BEFORE
GOING ON TO OTHER PROJECTS. THE AREA NEAR

YOUR GARDEN & MRS CHANS NEEDS PLANTING AS
DOES THE AREA AROUND THE BERKELEY GARDEN
SIGN POST. PERHAPS YOU COULD HELP US PLAN
THOSE TWO AREAS.

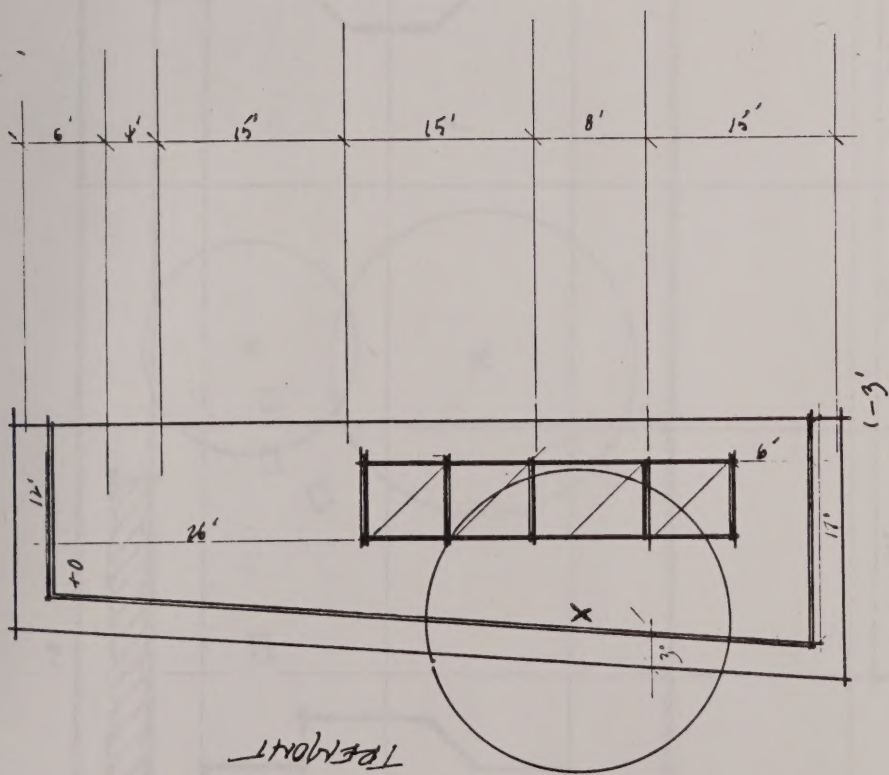
THE OPEN SPACE IN THE MIDDLE IS FINISHED
EXCEPT FOR SOME GROUND TIMBERS. WE WILL
GET SOIL & PLANT EVERGREENS & BULBS THERE
NEXT SUMMER. IT SHOULD BE NICE TO LOOK AT
DURING THE WINTER.

WELL MR YEE - THATS ALL !

PLEASE CALL ME AT 426 4392 EX 615 OR
426 5524 TO GET
TOGETHER

THANKS -

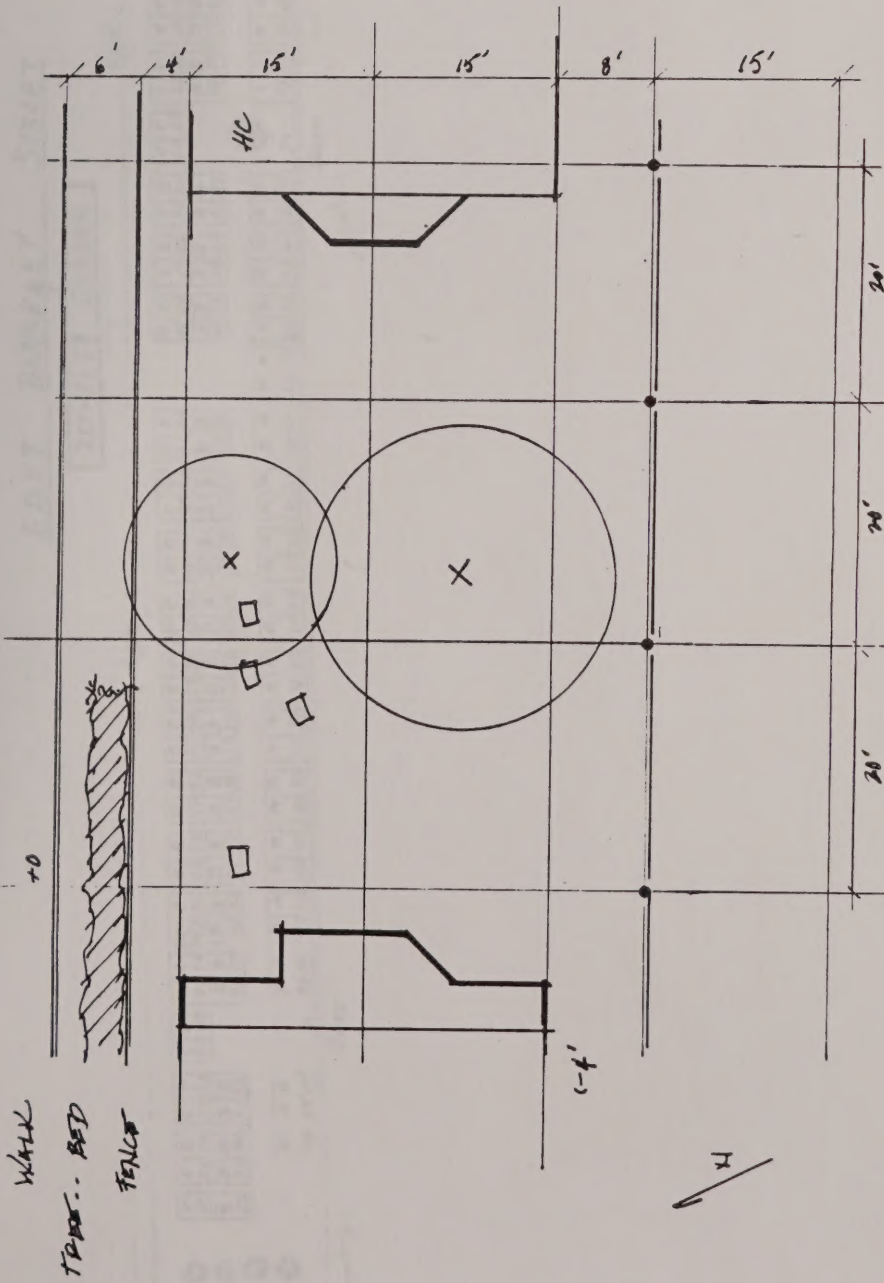
Roger Stearn,



VICTORIAN ARBOR

1" = 10' - 0"

FOR BECKLEY STREET



CENTER - MEETING AREA | 1992

BERKELEY GARDEN

TREE.

L. m. l. m.

 γ

GATE

6478

Case

6078

GATE

1341-

11. 12. 13.

1991, 1992

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170143

Low CHHS

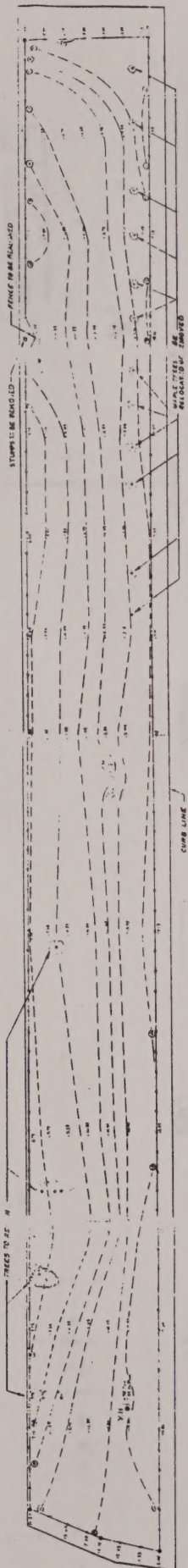
SHAWMUT AVENUE

ALLEY

STREET

BERKELEY

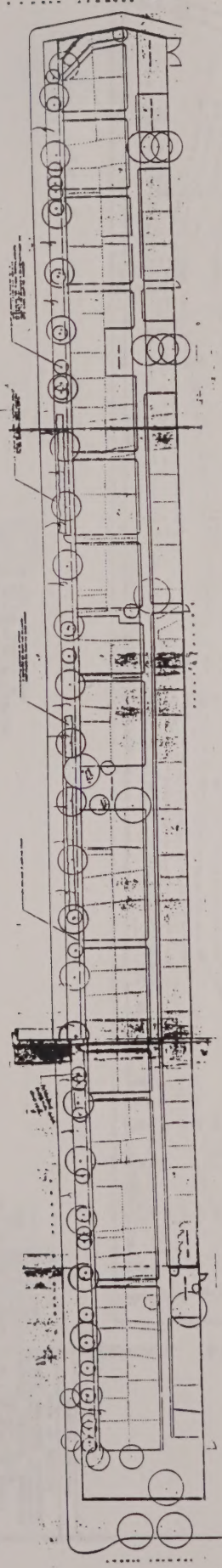
EAST



- LEGEND
- 3' HIGH EXISTING
 - VIH 8 EXISTING ROAD ELEVATION
 - 112.74 SPOT ELEVATION
 - 112.74 ELEVATION CONTOUR
 - EXISTING TRAIL

- NOTES
1. CLEAR AND GRASS THE ENTIRE LOT AS SHOWN HERE.
 2. RELOCATE THE EXISTING CHAIN LINE (VIH 8) TO THE NEW LOCATION AND SET THE CORNER STAKES AND MONUMENTS IN PLACE.
 3. RELOCATE THE LOT AS SHOWN AND RELOCATE THE EXISTING CHAIN LINE TO THE NEW LOCATION.
 4. RELOCATE THE EXISTING TRAIL AS SHOWN AND SET THE CORNER STAKES AND MONUMENTS IN PLACE.
 5. RELOCATE THE EXISTING ROAD ELEVATION TO THE NEW LOCATION.

- NOTES
1. SEE 1.500' SECTION MAP OF THE TRACT.
 2. SEE 1.500' SECTION MAP OF THE TRACT.
 3. SEE 1.500' SECTION MAP OF THE TRACT.
 4. SEE 1.500' SECTION MAP OF THE TRACT.
 5. SEE 1.500' SECTION MAP OF THE TRACT.



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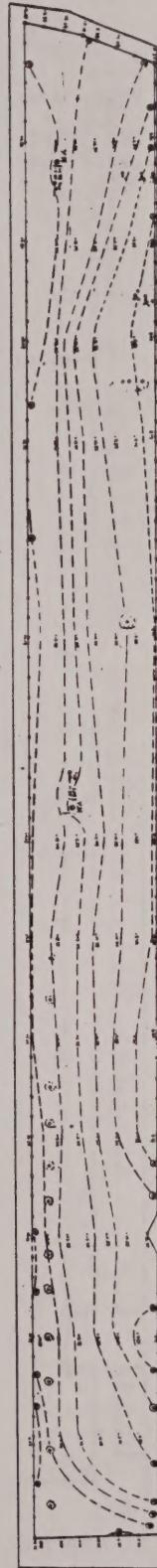
SHAWMUT AVENUE

EAST

BERKELEY

STREET

ALLEY



NOTES

1. Lot 10 of the above named of the Board of Public Works, Boston, to the City of Boston, for the purpose of the same.
2. Board of Public Works, Boston, to the City of Boston, for the purpose of the same.
3. Board of Public Works, Boston, to the City of Boston, for the purpose of the same.

SCALE
1" = 20'

LEGEND

- 1/2" wide street
- 1/4" wide street
- 1/8" wide street
- 1/16" wide street
- 1/32" wide street
- 1/64" wide street
- 1/128" wide street
- 1/256" wide street
- 1/512" wide street
- 1/1024" wide street
- 1/2048" wide street
- 1/4096" wide street
- 1/8192" wide street
- 1/16384" wide street
- 1/32768" wide street
- 1/65536" wide street
- 1/131072" wide street
- 1/262144" wide street
- 1/524288" wide street
- 1/1048576" wide street
- 1/2097152" wide street
- 1/4194304" wide street
- 1/8388608" wide street
- 1/16777216" wide street
- 1/33554432" wide street
- 1/67108864" wide street
- 1/134217728" wide street
- 1/268435456" wide street
- 1/536870912" wide street
- 1/1073741824" wide street
- 1/2147483648" wide street
- 1/4294967296" wide street
- 1/8589934592" wide street
- 1/17179869184" wide street
- 1/34359738368" wide street
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- 1/1099511627776" wide street
- 1/2199023255552" wide street
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SHAWMUT AVENUE

EAST

BERKELEY

STREET

ALLEY

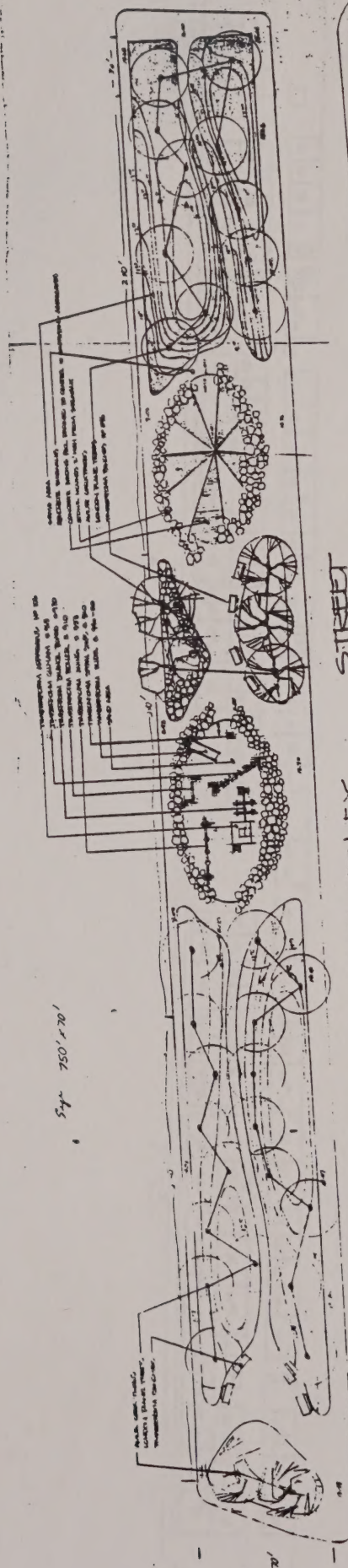
SCALE
1" = 20'

LEGEND

EXISTING GRADE
PROPOSED GRADE
PROPOSED GRADE
PROPOSED GRADE

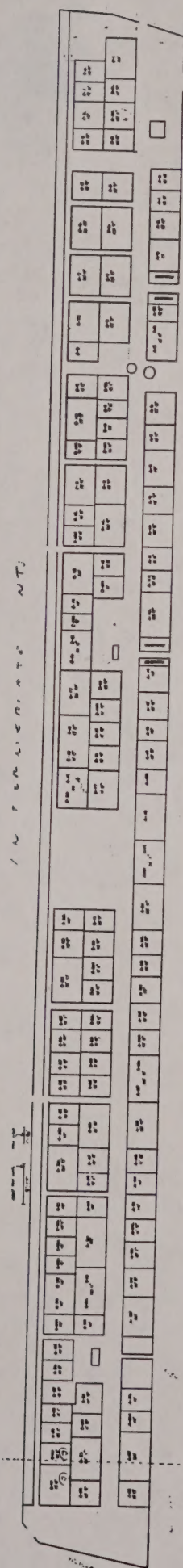
TREMONT STREET

PROPOSED GRADES	
CITY OF BOSTON	
PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT	
BOSTON WATER DEPARTMENT	
BOSTON WATER DEPARTMENT	
AT EAST BERNARD STREET	
JOB NO. 240	JAN 1978
PROJECTED GRADE PLANS	



WEST-BECKLEY STREET

EAST BERKELEY STREET
SCALE 1" = 20' 0"



Appendix 8

Garden membership then and now

Berkeley Gardens Master List

- A1: Mee Gum Soo Hoo
 -A2: Wai Chiu Wong
 -A3: Susie McMillan
 -A4: Luis Lopez
 -A5: Sue Naimack
 -A6: ~~Fee Tam~~ *Anna Lee*
 -A7: Meg Breyman
 -A8: Eugenio Streizzieri
 -A9: Bruce Bielaski
 -A10: Gretchen Greeley
 -A11: Braley Gray
 -A12: Chan Yee Seto
 -A13: Jeanne Pockel
 -A14: David Bateman
 -A15: Kwong Wong
 -A16: Sen Lee
 -A17: Robert Gee
 -A18: S. M. Gee
 -A19: Joan Chin
 -A20: Sing Yee
 -A21: Walter Moy
 -A22: G. A. Taft
 -A23: Polly Smith
 -A24: Dieuvenise Gean
 -A25: Shim Ding Lau
 -A26: Chun Ming Lau
 -A27: Fee Tam
 -A28: Dexter Dixon
 -A29: Fred Dixon
 -A30: Patricia and Steven Hammer
 -A31: Carol and Bill Ng
 -A32: Shui Fong Ng
 -A33: Modesta Rivera
 -A34: Lloyd Strait
 -A35: ~~Martha Jordan~~
 -A36: Louis Peltier
 -A37: You Wing Lau
 -A38: Kim Lau
 -A39: Ma King Chin (Mrs.)
 -A40: ~~Suzanne Flynn~~ *ANN GRAYTON*
 -A41: Jack Smallcombe
 -A42: Robert La Morder
 -A43: Kit Chee Mak
 -A44: Lloyd Jamison
 -A45: Sal Farinella
 -A46: ~~Walter Rosen~~ *WALTER ROSEN*
 -A47: Edward di Girolamo
 -A48: Edward di Girolamo
 -A49: Susan Straight
 -B1: Angela Wilson
 -B2: Leoncio Cotto
 -B3: Elizabeth Singer
 -B4: Alice Chan
 -B5: Seon Toy
 -B6: Wai King Luy
 -B7: Ralph Y.G. Fan
 -B8: Ar Suei Lee
 -B9: Yick Yuey Jung
 -B10: M. and L. Katz
 -B11: Boyd Finch
 -B12: Lau Tai Lee
 -B13: Vinson Wright
 -B14: Man Kwong Lim
 -B15: Elaine Brown
 -B16: Ransom
 -B17: Cooke
 -B18: Shee Wong
 -B19: Fee Hong Hom
 -B20: ~~Joe Wong~~ *(Susanne)*
 -B21: Carol Ganz
 -B22: Smith and Trial
 -B23: Jack Cashman
 -B24: Susan Olsen
 -B25: Maureen Osolnik
 -B26: Kathy Spahn
 -B27: Karen Feiden
 -B28: William Goodwin
 -B29: Ruth Rodgers
 -B30: Charles Whitlock
 -B31: Hope Bradley
 -B32: Juanita Harding
 -B33: Emilienne Bowles
 -B34: Judy Fleischman
 -B35: Vasilios Balodimas
 -B36: Pak Ying Yee
 -B37: Lew Sun Wing
 -B38: Gretta Norton
 -B39: Paul & Trudy Duffy
 -B40: Jose Alicea
 -B41: David and Diane Wood
 -B42: Ruby Gardner
 -B43: S. Wing -Choy
 -B44: Chau Sim Wong
 -B45: Luis Ruiz
 -B46: Ellis Memorial
 -B47: Ellis Memorial
 -B48: T. Wong
 -B49: Chow Yee Bon
 -B50: Mrs. Walter Graham
 -C1: Ann Dickens
 -C2: Dottie Zaboroski
 -C3: D. Hand & E. Meyer
 -C4: Virginia Andiyar
 -C5: Kimberly Moss
 -C6: Mon Ung Wong
 -C7: K. S. Lee
 -C8: Patty Yee
 -C9: Phillip Soo Hoo
 -C10: Foon Nam Wong
 -C11: Shun Yee Wong
 -C12: L. & M. Ui Laoghair
 -C13: Max Pounder
 -C14: Marguerita Melendez
 -C15: Vicki Unfricht
 -C16: Moon Wgn Hom
 -C17: ~~Bred Blanchard~~ *AKIEL*
 -C18: Julia Ravenell
 -C19: Ngan Wong
 -C20: Agnes Chin
 -C21: Sam Y. See To
 -C22: King Hon Tam
 -C23: Lai Heu Chin
 -C24: Mike Antenucci
 -C25: Jane Boune
 -C26: Anna Kerkorian
 -C27: Richard Benner
 -C28: ~~Raphael~~ (?) Valezque
 -C29: *Lucille Prescott*
 -C30: Fee Jin Dea Wong
 -C31: Jose Velasquez
 -C32: Holy Trinity
 -C33: Pak Wai Yee
 -C34: Quinton Matos
 -C35: Jose Marcial
 -C36: Quan Gobey
 -C37: Susy Lee
 -C38: Wai Sun Chin
 -C39: Jackson Wong
 -C40: Earleen Dotch
 -C41: Wai Kim Mak
 -C42: Lelia Christmas
 -C43: Helen Courtney
 -C44: Muffy Desimone (I)
 -C45: Muffy Desimone (I)
 -C46: ~~Louis Houselander~~
 -C47: Tung Oi Choi Lee
 -C48: Yuet Lin Lee
 -C49: Gin Wae
 -C50: Carol Palmer
 -C51: Gertrude Swinson
 -C52: Ellis Memorial
 -C53: Ngew Quan
 -C54: Alma McKinnon (I)
 -C55: Linda J. Simpkins
 -C56: Mei Chin

BERKELEY ST GARDEN MEMBERSHIP

name	address	Tel #	plot #	pd
SHUI CHUN CHOW	285 TREMONT ST. APT. 206	02116	C-43-44	✓
RICHARD KWAN	285 TREMONT ST. APT. 206, 02116		B33	✓
CHARLES J. WHITLOCK	41 DWIGHT ST.		C26-A29	✓
FUNG S. GEE	42 DWIGHT 02116		A6 A30	✓
CHING YIP	352 TREMONT ST., APT. E 305, 02118		A-36	✓
CHAN WAH JUNG			B9	✓
WILLIAM KWN	86 TREMONT ST. APT. 206		B-33	✓
LILY CHUI	27A VILLAGE COURT, 02118		41	✓
LAU HEUNG MOI	57 DWIGHT ST. 02116		C-52	✓
MIKE MICH	9 WINCHESTER ST., 02116 (LIB. 1389)		B	✓
PAMELA TAYLOR	42 THAYER ST. 02118		A33	✓
YICK YUNG JUNG	9 MILFORD ST.		B-8	✓
RALPH FEAN	242 SHAWMUT AVE.		B-7	✓
SUEZ KIM YEE			B-10	✓
SOO WAH GOON	17D CASTLE CT. 02118 (2 OR 288)		A28	✓
WAI SUN CHIN	5D VILLAGE CT. 02118		C38	✓
SUN Y HUI	17B CASTLE CT. 02118		2 B0	✓
GEE	12 CASTLE COURT 02118		B18	✓
GRETTE M. NORTON	330 TREMONT ST., #B300, 02116		B38	✓
CHARLES J. WHITLOCK			A19	✓
MIMI BIL BALK	14 MILFORD ST. 02118		A20	✓
YING LUO CHEN			B3	✓
LAI MIN CHOW	242 SHAWMUT AVE.		C1	✓
LIU WAN WONG	242 SHAWMUT AVE.		C49	✓
LIN WAE	34 DWIGHT ST. 02118		A37	✓
KIM LAU	35 DWIGHT ST. 02118		C34, C35	✓
YIM YEE	74 CHANDLER ST.		B34	✓
HIW LEM CHIEN	2D CASTLE CT.		B40	✓
RUI LAW	2B CASTLE CT.		C8	✓
ATTY YEE	5 OAK ST. W. APT. 1104 02116		C9	✓
PHILIP SOO HOO	5 OAK ST. W. APT. 1104 02116		B36, B37	✓
LI YUN CHOW	602 TREMONT ST.		A31	✓
SHUI FONG NG	39 DWIGHT ST.		A32	✓
CAROL & BICE NG	39 DWIGHT ST.			

BERKELEY ST. GARDEN MEMBERSHIP

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE #	PLOT #	PD
TSANG MANTING MUI	52B W. DENTHAM ST.	02118	A48	✓
JAN HANG GEE	41 MILFORD ST.		A39	✓
JAMES CHU			A11	✓
WING CHOY	32 DWIGHT ST.	02118	B43 B44	
WAI KING CHAN	32 DWIGHT ST.	02118	B5, B6	✓
CHAN SIM LEE	32 DWIGHT ST.	02118	C5, C6	✓
JOHN S. WONG (ESTATE WONG)	9 MILFORD ST.	02116	B24, B25	✓
			A22, A23	✓
BIEEZ YEE	1A VILLAGE CT.		C28	✓
ZERLEAN DARTCK	494 TREMONT, APT. 58		C27, C40	✓
TERRY PITZNER	116 B PEMBROKE ST.	02118	A44	✓
→ SEND TO: C/O CYRUS CASSELLS 267-3734				
116 B PEMBROKE ST. 02118				
PAK WAI YEE	28 D PAUL PLACE	02118	C33	✓
YAN YUK TOO	28 D PAUL PLACE	02118	C37	✓
UN YU YAN	28 PAUL PLACE	02118	B29	✓
CHOI YUET LEE	595 TREMONT ST.		B45	✓
WONG GOO CHUN	291 SHAWMUT AVE.		A21	✓
LOI HEN CHIN	5A CASTLE CT.		C23	✓
FEE HONG (HOM)	40 CHIN, 5A CASTLE CT.		B19	✓
SLUE NGOW WONG	3D CASTLE CT.		C21	✓
BARBARA ANDERSON	27 APPLETON ST.	02116	?	
WING FOH WONG	111 CHANDLER ST.		B8, B9	✓
ROGER STEARNS	55 DWIGHT ST.	02118	A46, 45	
ANNA KERKORIAN	734 E. SEVENTH ST. SU. BOSTON	02127	C26	✓
CHING YIP	352 TREMONT ST., APT. E305	02118	E?	
JAMES NG	39 DWIGHT ST.	02118	A36	✓
BILL AMIDON	29 DWIGHT ST. (W-244-4811 X811) (H 482-5514)			
(DWIGHT ST. NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.)				
GUN FAN YEE	242 SHAWMUT AVE.			
BILL MCCARTHY	53A DWIGHT ST. (CONCERNED) (NEIGHBOR)	423-4585		

Bar Voley - 2001

First Name	Last Name	Partner's name	Address	City	State	Zip
Mary	Corcoran		Berkeley St.	Boston	MA	02116
Ann	Schiro		650 Huntington Avenue	Roxbury	MA	02115
Fung Sing	Gee		42 Dwight St.	Boston	MA	02118
Kwan Wong	Kwan		285 Tremont St #220	Boston	MA	02116
H.	Khachadorian		734 E. Seventh St	South Boston	MA	02117
Ted	Kerkorian		734 E. Seventh St	South Boston	MA	02117
Pter	Lui		31 D Village Court	Boston	MA	02118
James	Chu		41 Milford St.	Boston	MA	02118
Chow Setu	Chok Yu		80 Mason St. #80	Boston	MA	02111
Lily	Chui		27 A Village Court	Boston	MA	02118
Yam Yuen	Hung		9 D Castle Court	Boston	MA	02118
Wah Yick	Gee		12 Castle Court	Boston	MA	02118
Soo Guw	Gee		12 Castle Court	Boston	MA	02118
Jeff	Hull		383 Albany Street	Boston	MA	02118
Zi Ji	Mei		14 Milford St.	Boston	MA	02118
Ching	Yip		352 Tremont St. #305	Boston	MA	02116
Susan	Tran		42 Dwight St.	Boston	MA	02118
Soo Chun	Wong		291 Shawmut St.	Boston	MA	02118
Lai May	Ng		52 Dwight St.	Boston	MA	02118
Yuguog	Wu		440 Tremont St. #43	Boston	MA	02118
Chui Ha	Yu	Arlene Ng	440 Tremont St. #16	Boston	MA	02116
Soo	Wahgoon		17 D Castle St.	Boston	MA	02118
Tom			9 Mildford St. #3	Boston	MA	02118
Dung Woo	Gee		42 Dwight St.	Boston	MA	02118
Shai	Fong	Arlene Ng	39 Dwight St.	Boston	MA	02118
David Om	Dahl		28 Dartmouth St.	Boston	MA	02116
Center of the			34 Appleton St. #2	Boston	MA	02116
Ching	Yip		352 Tremont St.	Boston	MA	02116
Ching Mei	Long		352 Tremont St. #305	Boston	MA	02116
Mee Kim	Chin		34 Dwight St.	Boston	MA	02118
Yee San	Moy		34 Dwight St.	Boston	MA	02118
Yau Cheyng	Yu Chu		41 Milford St.	Boston	MA	02118
Choi Yuet	Lee		595 Tremont St.	Boston	MA	02116
Steven	Cerceillo		322 Shawmut Avenue	Boston	MA	02118
Ping Kui	Woo		230 Stuart ST. #708 W	Boston	MA	02116
Lui	Sze	Lau Henng Moi	57 Dwight St.	Boston	MA	02118
Bill	McCarthy		53 Dwight St.	Boston	MA	02118
Roger	Stearns	Paul B.	55 Dwight St.	Boston	MA	02118
Tsang Ting	Mui		52 B Dedham St.	Boston	MA	02118
Tsang Ting	Mui		52 B Dedham St.	Boston	MA	02118
Lam	Yu		80 W. Dedham St #406	Boston	MA	02118
Sun Yan	Hui		17B Castle St.	Boston	MA	02118
Yan Wun	Yu		28 D Paul Place	Boston	MA	02118
Alice	Chan		32 Dwight St.	Boston	MA	02118
Wai	King	Jun Tin Chan	32 Dwight St.	Boston	MA	02118
Sui Kim	Yee	Ralph Yee	242 Shawmut Avenue	Boston	MA	02118
Yick	Yuey	Chih W. Jung	9 Milford St.	Boston	MA	02118
Hanson	Lee		285 Tremont St.	Boston	MA	02116
Lai Hen	Chin	& Friend	5 A Castle Court	Boston	MA	02118
Sylvia	Appleton		27 Appleton	Boston	MA	02116
Zoila	Lee		22 Dwight St.	Boston	MA	02118
Susi	Wong		3 D Castle Court	Boston	MA	02118
David	Gardner		36 Montgomery St.	Boston	MA	02116
Richard	Kwan		15 Fairlawn St.	Haverhill	MA	01830
H.	Cheung		286 Tremont St.	Boston	MA	02116
Steven	Wong	John Wong	91 Milford St.	Boston	MA	02118
Soo	Wahgoon		17 D Castle Place	Boston	MA	02118
Yan Yook	Too		28 D Paul Place	Boston	MA	02118
Charles	Whitlock		41 Dwight St.	Boston	MA	02118
Sui	Dai		414 Tremont St. #34	Boston	MA	02118
Barbara	Anderson		27 Appleton St.	Boston	MA	02116
Rui Lan	Guan		2 B Castle Court	Boston	MA	02118
Kai Fok	Lai		494 Tremont St. #52	Boston	MA	02118
Lui Mai	Xian		602 Tremont St.	Boston	MA	02118

First Name	Last Name	Partner's name	Address	City	State	Zip
Huang Man	Xian		602 Tremont St.	Boston	MA	02118
Greta	Norton		330 Tremont St. #B 30	Boston	MA	02116
Cheak K.	Chan		2 B Castle Court	Boston	MA	02118
Mei Su	Chan		2 B Castle Court	Boston	MA	02118
Zhen L. & Mei	Huang		14 A Emerald St.	Boston	MA	02118
Hui Jing	Tang		347 Tremont St. #6	Boston	MA	02118
Michael	Mich		9 Winchester St.	Boston	MA	02116
Hoy Lun	Chan		2 B Castle Court	Boston	MA	02118
Yichuan	Choi		217 Harrison Avenue	Boston	MA	02118
Chung & Yalun	Cheung		364 Tremont St. #D 20	Boston	MA	02118
Chu Ngor	Chan		2 A Milford St.	Boston	MA	02118
Lap Man	Chow		262 Shawmut Avenue	Boston	MA	02118
Li	Bak		602 Tremont Avenue	Boston	MA	02118
Nick	Peterson		290 Shawmut Avenue	Boston	MA	02118
Roberto	Udan		290 Shawmut Avenue	Boston	MA	02118
Jung	Chan		32 Dwight St.	Boston	MA	02118
Kung L. & Sau	Wong		5 Oak Street. #610	Boston	MA	02116
Liu Wan	Chou		262 Shawmut Avenue	Boston	MA	02118
Fung Sin	Lee		285 Tremont St. #20	Boston	MA	02116
Mak T.	Kwai		28 B Paul Place	Boston	MA	02118
Lai Hen	Chin		5 A Castle Court	Boston	MA	02118
Lai Hen	Chen		3 D Castle Court	Boston	MA	02118
Xiao Ling	Wong		248 Shawmut Avenue	Boston	MA	02118
Anna	Lee		42 Dwight St.	Boston	MA	02118
Zerlan	Dortch		494 Tremont St.	Boston	MA	02116
Boston Living		YWCA	140 Clarendon St.	Boston	MA	02118
Fung Su	Moi		17 A Village Court	Boston	MA	02118
Pak Wai	Yee		28 D Paul Place	Boston	MA	02118
Yin	Lee	Susan Yee	74 Chandler St.	Boston	MA	02116
Ann	Gregorian			Boston	MA	
Wai Sum	Chin		5 D Village Court	Boston	MA	02118
Billy	Yee			Boston	MA	
Hattie	Dortch		5 A Village Court	Boston	MA	02118
Wong	Kin		440 Tremont St. #36	Boston	MA	02118
C. C.	Kwan	presently in Hong K		Boston	MA	
Li Yun	Choy		32 Dwight St.	Boston	MA	02118
Wing	Choy		32 Dwight St.	Boston	MA	02118
Chan Sim	Lee		285 Tremont St. #322	Boston	MA	02116
Yun Ton	Hui		34 Dwight St.	Boston	MA	02118
Hung Man	Xian		602 Tremont St.	Boston	MA	02118
Ducan	Davidson		33 Worcester St. #5	Boston	MA	02118
Jose	Yumet		113 Chandler St.	Boston	MA	02118
Cynthia	Sloan		1 Ashburton Place, Rdc	Boston	MA	02108
Ellis Memorial			66 Berkeley St. Box 32	Boston	MA	02117

Appendix 9

Boston GreenSpace Alliance, Inc.

44 Bromfield St. Boston, MA 02118
Boston Foundation Fund for Parks and Open Spaces

June 9, 1989

Berkley Street Community Garden
c/o Charles W. Black
41 Dwyer St.
Boston, MA 02118

Dear Mr. W. Black:

Thank you for your proposal to the Fund for Parks and Open Spaces. The Board has reviewed your application on May 4th and decided to grant \$7,100 for improvements at the Berkley Street Garden. Since funds are limited the committee could only grant \$7,100 towards your request for contracts and technical specialists. Also your request to see a photograph of the site was not approved.

The Boston Foundation will send a check for \$7,100 at your bank account 2-10-89, within the next few weeks.

Best wishes for a successful project and a productive growing season.

Sincerely,

Mary Clarke
Mary Clarke

cc: Janet Clarke
June 1989

Boston GreenSpace Alliance, Inc.

44 Bromfield Street #207 Boston, Massachusetts 02108 (617) 426-7980

June 9, 1989

Berkeley Street Community Garden
c/o Charles Whitlock
41 Dwight St.
Boston, MA 02118

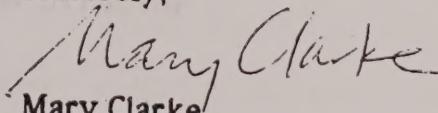
Dear Mr. Whitlock,

Thank you for your proposal to the fund for Parks and Open Spaces. The Enabling Committee reviewed your application on May 4th and decided to grant \$2,100 towards improvements at the Berkeley Street Garden. Since funds are limited the committee could only grant \$750 towards your request for contracts and technical specialists. Also, your request to cover photography costs was not approved.

The Boston Foundation will send a check for \$2,100 to your fiscal agent, B.U.G., within the next few weeks.

Best wishes for a successful project and a productive growing season.

Sincerely,


Mary Clarke

cc. Janet Dillon
Julie Stone

Officers

President Valerie Burns, Boston Natural Areas Fund • **Vice President** Lorraine Downey, Boston Environment Department • **Vice President** Charlotte Kahn, Boston Urban Gardeners • **Vice President** Henry Lee, Friends of Public Garden & Common • **Treasurer** Ken Withers, Fenway Garden Society • **Clerk** Jane Paquet-Whall, Dorchester Park Association • **President Emeritus** Ed Cooper, Highland Park 400

Board of Directors

Kathleen Abbott, Department of Environmental Management • Diego Alvarado, Carter Playground Association • Thelma Barros, Operation Food, Inc. • Alexandra Bell-Whitten, Boston Office of Environmental Affairs • Marianne Connolly, MetroParks • Jackie Cooper, Castle Sq. Child Development Ctr. • Christine Cooper, Jamaica Pond Project • Rick Dalton, Mass. Horticultural Society • Charlie Doyle, Friends of Ringer Park • John Feingold, Trust for Public Land • Jim Gorman, Arnold Arboretum Committee • Sarah Hamilton, M.A.S.C.O. • June Hatfield, Northeastern University • Blossom Hoag, Sierra Club, Boston Chapter • Janet Hunkel, League of Women Voters, Boston • Peter Jackson, Boston Society of Landscape Architects • Betsy Johnson, Claremont Neighborhood Association • Lawland Long, Quincy School Community Council • Valerie Mailer, Suffolk County Extension Service • George Marsh, Friends of Boston Harbor Islands • Jamiese Martin, Franklin Park Coalition • Mollie Mason, Beacon Hill Civic Association • Kelly McClintock, Environmental Lobby of Mass. • Ollie Melvin, Mary Ellen McCormack, BILA • Maria Meyer, C.E.I.P. Fund, Inc. • John Monroe, Charles River Watershed Association • Shirley Muirhead, Boston Redevelopment Authority • Lynn Mustian, Friends of Boston Waterfront Parks • Mark Olezek, Back Bay Association • Jo Proctor, Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University • Renee Robin, Program for Public Space Partnerships • Marsha Rockefeller, Mass. Audubon Society • Polly Selkoe, Jamaica Hills Association • Rob Stephenson, Boston-Fenway Program • Leroy Stoddard, Southwest Corridor Community Farm • Judy Ulman, Solomon Lewenberg Parent Council • Bill Walczak, Columbus-Savin Hill Civic Assoc. • Bob Weinberg, Friends of Post Office Square • Victoria Williams, Boston Parks and Recreation Dept. • Gerry Wright, Mass Council of Human Service Providers
Executive Director Mark Primack • **Legal Counsel** Doug MacDonald, Palmer & Dodge

THE BOSTON FOUNDATION

June 16, 1989

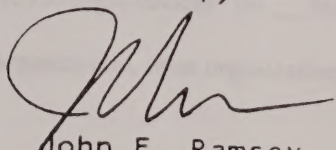
Ms. Charlotte Kahn
Executive Director
Boston Urban Gardeners, Inc.
33 Harrison Avenue, 5th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02111

Dear Charlotte:

It is a pleasure to tell you that the members of the Boston Foundation, at their meeting June 17, 1988, voted a \$100,000 grant for second year activities of the Fund for Parks and Open Space. A principal purpose of the Fund is to provide small grants for community based greenspace programs within the city of Boston. The Berkeley Street Community Garden proposal, after review by an advisory group to the Fund, has been designated to receive a grant of \$2,100. Our check in this amount is enclosed.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,


John F. Ramsey
Program Director

JFR:jch
Enc.

cc: Charles Whitlock
Berkeley Street Community Garden

THE BOSTON FOUNDATION

Small Grant Program Application

Please type or print neatly.

I. Name and Address of Your Group or Organization

Berkeley Street Community Garden

c/o Charles Whitlock, 41 Dwight St., Boston 02118
c/o Boston Urban Gardeners, 33 Harrison Ave., Boston 02111

Tel. 482-8953

Contact Person: Charles Whitlock, President

Tel. days 267-6710 evenings 482-8953

Brief description of your organization or group:

Low-income, rent-subsidized tenants of Berkeley St.
area. Mostly Chinese gardeners who speak no English --
also gardeners from many ethnic groups. Average age: 60-65.

Are you a non-profit tax-exempt (501 (C) 3) organization? Yes ___ No X

If you are not a non-profit tax-exempt organization, what organization will be your "umbrella" for receiving funds?

Name Boston Urban Gardeners

Tel. 423-7497

Address 33 Harrison Avenue

contact: Julie Stone

Boston, MA 02111

II. Location

Name of project site: Berkeley Street Community Garden

Ward and parcel #, if known: _____

Location of site: Berkeley Street between Tremont and Shawmut

Site ownership: Boston Redevelopment Authority

~~If your organization does not own the land on which your project will occur, please include a~~
letter of agreement from the landowner.

V. Project Benefits

What neighborhood and sub-neighborhood will benefit from your project:

(example: Dorchester Fields Corner)

South End:

8 Streets Association, Castle Square Tenants Association, Ellis
Neighborhood, and adjacent abutters

Please check all applicable; in following space be specific: who, how, what groups, etc.

✓

☒ in public housing development: adjacent to Castle Square

near public housing: _____

☒ serves low-income people: mostly older, non-English-speaking
low-income Chinese

_____ serves mixed-income people: _____

_____ serves children: _____

_____ serves teens: _____

☒ serves elderly: _____

☒ brings together racially and ethnically diverse people: _____

☒ encourages community involvement: we hope to increase this aspect
greatly

☒ improves neighborhood: cleaner appearance and increased food
production on site

☒ expands horizons for young people: garden gives opportunity to learn
food production

☒ increases handicapped access: stakes will make it easier to older
gardeners to cultivate plants

VI. Signature

Authorized signature: _____

Name printed: Julie Stone

Title: Garden Resource Manager, Boston Urban Gardeners

Mail application to: The Boston Foundation Small Grants Program
c/o The Boston GreenSpace Alliance

Tel. 426-6597

44 Bromfield Street, #207
Boston, MA 02108

IV. Project Budget

•Personnel:

Total 0.00

•Supplies and materials:

Fencing material
Bamboo stakes
Plumbing supplies
Garbage bags and gloves
Mulch

Total 1350.00

•Publicity costs and copying:

Film, developing for black and white
prints and color slides for documentation
and publicity

Total 150.00

•Transportation:

Total 0.00

•Contracts and Technical Specialists:

Boston Urban Gardeners will contract to
do the following: soliciting material
donations, coordinating major clean-up,
facilitating plumbing and water system
repair, presenting beautification workshops(2),
community organizing.

Total 1500.00

•Other:

- * In-kind donations from nursery- minimum \$500
- * Two volunteer workdays \$1000
- * Plumbing repair - money from Berkeley
St. Community Garden - maximum \$1000

Total 2500.00

•Other sources of funds for the project:

Total _____

Project Total \$5500.00

THE BOSTON FOUNDATION

Small Grant Program Application

Please type or print neatly.

I. Name and Address of Your Group or Organization

Berkeley Street Community Garden

c/o Charles Whitlock, 41 Dwight St., Boston 02118

c/o Boston Urban Gardeners, 33 Harrison Ave., Boston 02111

Tel. 482-8953

Contact Person: Charles Whitlock, President

Tel. days 267-6710

evenings 482-8953

Brief description of your organization or group:

Low-income, rent-subsidized tenants of Berkeley St.

area. Mostly Chinese gardeners who speak no English --

also gardeners from many ethnic groups. Average age: 60-65.

Are you a non-profit tax-exempt (501 (C) 3) organization? Yes ☐ No ☒

If you are not a non-profit tax-exempt organization, what organization will be your "umbrella" for receiving funds?

Name Boston Urban Gardeners

Tel. 423-7497

Address 33 Harrison Avenue

contact: Julie Stone

Boston, MA 02111

II. Location

Name of project site: Berkeley Street Community Garden

Ward and parcel #, if known: _____

Location of site: Berkeley Street between Tremont and Shawmut

Site ownership: Boston Redevelopment Authority

If your organization does not own the land on which your project will occur, please include a brief letter of agreement from the landowner.

III. Your Project

Please describe your project:

Our project is threefold: 1) to purchase materials for fencing and plumbing (water system) repairs, improved and more uniform staking, and a major garden clean-up (garbage bags, gloves, etc.); 2) to organize community gardeners and volunteers for maximum involvement in initial garden clean-up and ongoing maintenance of garden site; and 3) to present educational workshops that will enable the gardens to use the new materials effectively and improve their food production.

Supplies and materials:

Tapping material
Barbed wire
Plumbing supplies
Garbage bags and gloves
Gloves

How will you accomplish your project?

Technical assistance provided by Boston Urban Gardeners will help us organize community gardeners and volunteers (Mass Half-way Houses, Homeless Coalition, etc.) to clean up the site and make essential repairs. Workshops will orient the gardeners to the use of new staking material and review basic gardening and maintenance skills. Volunteers and gardeners will help beautify the garden by planting annuals.

Who will be involved in the project; how will the community be involved:

Gardeners and community residents will be involved in upgrading the garden, cutting stakes, helping replace found materials with more uniform, aesthetically-pleasing trellising materials, and a major clean-up effort coordinated by Boston Urban Gardeners with the City of Boston's Dept. of Public Works, Parks Dept., and volunteers. A plumber will assist with water system repairs.

How can your project be evaluated: (examples of evaluation materials might include such things as before and after photos, samples of fliers, number of participants, brief written report, etc.)

Our project can be evaluated by before and after photographs as well as a short report on the effect of garden upgrading and improved water access.

IV. Project Budget

• **Personnel:**

Total 0.00

• **Supplies and materials:**

Fencing material
Bamboo stakes
Plumbing supplies
Garbage bags and gloves
Mulch

Total 1350.00

• **Publicity costs and copying:**

Film, developing for black and white
prints and color slides for documentation
and publicity

Total 150.00 50.

• **Transportation:**

Total 0.00

• **Contracts and Technical Specialists:**

Boston Urban Gardeners will contract to
do the following: soliciting material
donations, coordinating major clean-up,
facilitating plumbing and water system
repair, presenting beautification workshops(2)
community organizing.

Total 1500.00

• **Other:**

* In-kind donations from nursery- minimum \$500
* Two volunteer workdays \$1000
* Plumbing repair - money from Berkeley
St. Community Garden - maximum \$1000

Total 2500.00

• **Other sources of funds for the project:**

Total _____

Project Total \$5500.00

V. Project Benefits

What neighborhood and sub-neighborhood will benefit from your project:

(example: Dorchester Fields Corner)

South End:

8 Streets Association, Castle Square Tenants Association, Ellis Neighborhood, and adjacent abutters

Please check all applicable; in following space be specific: who, how, what groups, etc.

✓

☒ in public housing development: adjacent to Castle Square

☐ near public housing: _____

☒ serves low-income people: mostly older, non-English-speaking low-income Chinese

☐ serves mixed-income people: _____

☐ serves children: _____

☐ serves teens: _____

☒ serves elderly: _____

☒ brings together racially and ethnically diverse people: _____

☒ encourages community involvement: we hope to increase this aspect greatly

☒ improves neighborhood: cleaner appearance and increased food production on site

☒ expands horizons for young people: garden gives opportunity to learn food production

☒ increases handicapped access: stakes will make it easier to older gardeners to cultivate plants

VI. Signature

Authorized signature: Julie K Stone

Name printed: Julie Stone

Title: Garden Resource Manager, Boston Urban Gardeners

Mail application to: The Boston Foundation Small Grants Program

Tel. 426-6597

c/o The Boston GreenSpace Alliance

44 Bromfield Street, #207

Boston, MA 02108

April 30, 1989

The Berkeley Gardens have existed in their current form for about 11 years - over that time the constituency has changed greatly. The gardens now serve primarily low income Chinese, some Afro-Americans, a few Hispanics and one Viet family.

The produce from the gardens have a market worth of \$400-\$550 per family.

The gardeners are intensive because the vegetables go to feed their families consequently it makes a substantial contribution to their nutrition. Our gardeners (being low income) rely on found materials for plant support. This gives the gardens an uneven & tattered look & in most cases is less efficient than other materials - we hope to change this - if we can't get them more ground (and we can't) perhaps we can help them increase production - this is our goal.

The Chinese in the garden are mostly Cantonese immigrants who speak no English. This is a handicap but not completely insurmountable - it just makes things a little more difficult. The garden has been able to provide water & we hope to use our small cash balance to extend the water service (we have quite a few gardeners who are well into their 80's).

but this leaves us little for other improvements—as a result we apply for this grant.

While we can surely expect a neater appearing garden & increased production for the next few years. (we will pull the stakes & carry them over for the next few years) we hope to also create greater involvement of all of the communities with this project.

I thank you on behalf of the gardeners for considering our petition.

Respect fully—

Chas. J. Whitlock

President Berkeley Gardens

Ms. Charlotte Kahn, Executive Director
Boston Urban Gardeners
33 Harrison Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02111

Dear Ms. Kahn,

We, the gardeners and residents that live near the Berkeley Street Victory Garden, very much want to improve our garden. We are requesting assistance to help beautify the garden and make the site more productive for the families that grow food there -- for the water system, fencing, trash removal and rat control. We also need help organizing garden members, as many of us do not speak English.

We would be very appreciative if you could help us make the Berkeley Street Garden a better place for the whole neighborhood.

Ralph Y. S. Han	242 Shawmut Ave. Boston
Ching man chan	12 Milford St Boston mass
May Kim yee	242 Shawmut Ave. Boston Mass
Hin Wan Chow	242 Shawmut Ave. Boston MASS
Ch Tsin Lee	242 Shawmut Ave Boston Mass
Yan Wah Jung	9 Milford St Boston
Yick Yuet Jung	9 Milford St Boston
Yuen Tin Chin	12 Milford St. Boston MASS.
IM LEE TEE	40 MILFORD ST.
Lo man Chan	242 Shawmut
Hong Hay Ng	246 Shawmut Ave
Hieu T. Ng	" " "
King Fong Chin	" " "
Min K Chan	300 Shawmut Ave Boston
Lan K Chan	" " "
John Wong	9 Milford St.
Stem Wong	9 Milford Street

Sam Tin Chan	32 Dwight St. Boston
Wai King Chan	Apt. #1 Dwight St Boston
Vivian Lin	248 Shawmut Ave. Boston apt #1
Ahe Dong Wang	248 Shawmut Ave Boston apt #2
Lisa Lan Li	248 Shawmut Ave Boston apt 3.
Wing Choy	32 Dwight St. Apt. #2 Boston
Quet Ling Choy	32 Dwight St. Boston
Alice Lay	32 Dwight St. Boston Apt. #3

Boston GreenSpace Alliance, Inc.

44 Bromfield Street #207 Boston, Massachusetts 02108 (617) 426-7980

June 9, 1989

Berkeley Street Community Garden
c/o Charles Whitlock
41 Dwight St.
Boston, MA 02118

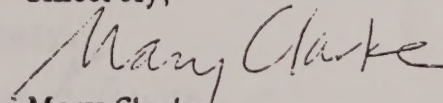
Dear Mr. Whitlock,

Thank you for your proposal to the fund for Parks and Open Spaces. The Enabling Committee reviewed your application on May 4th and decided to grant \$2,100 towards improvements at the Berkeley Street Garden. Since funds are limited the committee could only grant \$750 towards your request for contracts and technical specialists. Also, your request to cover photography costs was not approved.

The Boston Foundation will send a check for \$2,100 to your fiscal agent, B.U.G., within the next few weeks.

Best wishes for a successful project and a productive growing season.

Sincerely,


Mary Clarke

cc. Janet Dillon
Julie Stone

Officers

President Valerie Burns, Boston Natural Areas Fund • *Vice President* Lorraine Downey, Boston Environment Department • *Vice President* Charlotte Kahn, Boston Urban Gardeners • *Vice President* Henry Lee, Friends of Public Garden & Common • *Treasurer* Ken Withers, Fenway Garden Society • *Clerk* Jane Paquet-Whall, Dorchester Park Association • *President Emeritus* Ed Cooper, Highland Park 400

Board of Directors

Kathy Abbott, Department of Environmental Management • Diego Alvarado, Carter Playground Association • Thelma Barros, Operation Food, Inc. • Alexandra Bell-Whitten, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs • Marianne Connolly, MetroParks • Jackie Cooper, Castle Sq. Child Development Ctr. • Christine Cooper, Jamaica Pond Project • Rick Daley, Mass. Horticultural Society • Charlie Doyle, Friends of Ringer Park • John Feingold, Trust for Public Land • Jim Gorman, Arnold Arboretum Committee • Sarah Hamilton, N.A.S.C.O. • June Hatfield, Northeastern University • Blossom Hoag, Sierra Club, Boston Chapter • Janet Hunkel, League of Women Voters, Boston • Peter Jackson, Boston Society of Landscape Architects • Betsy Johnson, Claremont Neighborhood Association • Lawland Long, Quincy School Community Council • Valerie Maillet, Suffolk County Extension Service • George Marsh, Friends of Boston Harbor Islands • Jamlese Martin, Franklin Park Coalition • Mollie Mason, Beacon Hill Civic Association • Kelly McClintock, Environmental Lobby of Mass. • Ollie Melvin, Mary Ellen McCormack, BHA • Marla Meyer, C.E.I.P. Fund, Inc. • John Monroe, Charles River Watershed Association • Shirley Muirhead, Boston Redevelopment Authority • Lynn Mustian, Friends of Boston Waterfront Parks • Mark Olezek, Back Bay Association • Jo Proctor, Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University • Renee Robin, Program for Public Space Partnerships • Marsha Rockefeller, Mass. Audubon Society • Polly Selkoe, Jamaica Hills Association • Rob Stephenson, Boston-Fenway Program • Leroy Stoddard, Southwest Corridor Community Farm • Judy Ulman, Solomon Lewenberg Parent Council • Bill Walczak, Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Assoc. • Bob Weinberg, Friends of Post Office Square • Victoria Williams, Boston Parks and Recreation Dept. • Gerry Wright, Mass Council of Human Service Providers
Executive Director Mark Primack • Legal Counsel Doug MacDonald, Palmer & Dodge

THE BOSTON FOUNDATION

May 17, 1990

Ms. Julie Stone
Boston Urban Gardeners
33 Harrison Avenue
5th Floor
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Ms. Stone:

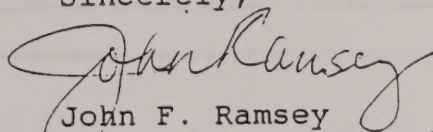
I am pleased to inform you that the members of the Boston Foundation's Fund for Parks and Open Space Enabling Committee have voted a grant of \$2,000 to Berkeley St. Community Garden for its landscaping project.

The money for this grant comes from the Boston Foundation's Fund for Parks and Open Space, established by the members of the Boston Foundation, Inc. at their meeting in April, 1990. A principal purpose of the Fund is to provide small grants for community based greenspace programs within the City of Boston. Our check in this amount, payable to Boston Urban Gardeners, as the umbrella organization, is enclosed.

We encourage grantees to make their own announcements of the Boston Foundation's support. Often this can best be done in the context of a story about the purpose and usefulness of the project for which the grant was made. The Foundation's staff will be glad to give advice or assistance if you feel that would be helpful.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



John F. Ramsey
Director of External Affairs

cc: Mr. Charles Whitlock
Berkely Street Community Garden

THE FUND FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

The Boston Foundation
Small Grant Program

Application

Date March 20, 1990

I. Name and address of your group or organization:

Berkeley Street Community Garden

East Berkeley Street between Shawmut Ave. and Tremont St.

contact

person Charles Whitlock, President

telephone 482-8953(4)

Brief description/mission of your organization or group:

Community gardening organization dedicated to food production for low to moderate income neighborhood residents. The gardeners are predominantly Chinese at present. By working with the following community groups, we are trying to broaden neighborhood involvement in the garden and introduce more beautification projects: Dwight Street Neighborhood Association, Eight Streets Neighborhood Association, and Castle Square Housing Development tenants.

Are you a non-profit tax-exempt [510 (c) (3)] organization? Yes _____ No* x

*If you are not a non-profit tax-exempt organization, what organization will be your "umbrella" for receiving funds?

Name Boston Urban Gardeners

Address 33 Harrison Avenue, 5th floor, Boston, MA 02111

Contact: Julie Stone

telephone 423-7497

II. Location

Name of project site: Berkeley Street Community Garden

Location: East Berkeley between Shawmut Ave. and Tremont St.

Site

ownership*: Boston Redevelopment Authority

*If your organization does not own the land on which your project will occur, please include a brief letter of agreement from the landowner.

III. Your Project

Please describe your project (use additional space if necessary):

This project would be a pilot for an "artists in the gardens" concept. The project will involve two major design components:

- 1) The design and construction of a prominent sign at the Shawmut Ave. entrance to the garden, to be seen by all those exiting the highway at East Berkeley St., to identify the garden and its ethnic memberships. The design would be an East/West motif, reflecting both the Asian and Euro-American cultures of those using the open space. Appropriate landscaping for both the Shawmut and Tremont Street edges of the garden would also be included.
- 2) The design of a post and signage system within the garden to delineate and identify the numerous garden plots and the membership status of the gardeners. This system would serve to unify the garden's appearance, giving it both an aesthetic and orderly presence. While highly functional, this would greatly benefit the community by bringing art into this large and highly visible open space.

Who will be involved in the project; how will the community be involved:

Artist and woodworker Wen-Ti Tsen, known and respected in Boston and in the Chinese community, would be the artist for this project. Community gardeners and neighborhood association members would review designs in a neighborhood jury. City Year youth corps members would help install the post system, as would volunteers from Mass. Half-Way houses under the direction of Boston Urban Gardeners.

Wen-Ti Tsen also speaks two dialects of Chinese and writes in Chinese, absolutely essential in effectively communicating with the community!
How can your project be evaluated: (examples of evaluation materials might include such things as before and after photos, samples of flyers, list of participants, brief written report, etc.)

The project can be evaluated through before and after photos, from flyers and community notices, and from letters from volunteers and gardeners.

IV. Project Benefits

Why is this project important to the community

The inclusion of "functional" artwork by a reputable artist within the large, well-established Berkeley Garden would bring new clarity and aesthetic appeal to this open space resource. Over 100 community gardeners and many more community residents would be invited to participate in the improvement of neighborhood open space through this project, many for the first time.

Who will benefit from your project?

The community of gardeners and neighbors of the Berkeley Street site, as well as the entire South End community, will gain great benefit from this beautification and systemization project. Furthermore, the success of the "artist in the garden" concept in this project could lead to many more successful environmental/artistic collaborations.

IV. Project Budget

(a) Supplies and materials

Paint, wood for sign

Approx. 10 gallons stain, 100 pressure-treated
timbers for post system

Hardware for post/signage system

Total (a) \$900

(b) Transportation

Total(b) _____

(c) Contracts and technical specialists

Artists fee for design and construction of sign,
design of appropriate landscaping for both ends of
garden, and design of post and signage system for
garden interior

Total(c) 1,000

(d) Other budget items

Printing, architectural drawing costs
Film/documentation costs

Total(d) 100

Project Total \$2,000

Other sources of funds for the project ?

Grassroots Grant from Boston Public Facilities Dept.

In-kind donations; hundreds of hours of volunteer labor through
City Year and Mass Half-Way Houses

V. How does your project meet the program guidelines? (see "The Fund for Parks and Open Space - Guidelines" brochure)

This project specifically meets all the requirements of the Small Grant Program. The garden is in a mixed income neighborhood and serves many low-income residents of the Asian community. The art project would allow greater participation for non-gardening community residents and for those interested in joining the garden group. It particularly facilitates the working relationship between the Asian and Euro-American populations of the neighborhood, a difficult thing to do because of the language barrier. Finally, it utilizes volunteer groups, in-kind donations, and members of neighborhood associations in order to reach out to the community and find broader sources of support for the garden.

VI. Authorized signature of applicant: _____

Julie K. Stone

Title: Garden Resources Organizer

Mail application and a copy of your {501 (c) (3)}, along with any enclosures (support letters, site plan, etc.) to:

The Enabling Committee
The Fund for Parks and Open Space
c/o Boston GreenSpace Alliance
44 Bromfield St. No. 207
Boston, MA 02108

WEN-TI TSEN
72 WENDELL STREET
CAMBRIDGE MA 02138
617-547-2965

PROFESSIONAL WORK

Current Projects

- "Chinatown Heritage Mural", Boston, Massachusetts
A 45ft.-high mural reproducing a 10th Century Chinese landscape painting in the center of Boston's Chinatown with Yuan Zuo to be funded in part by Mass. Council on the Arts and Humanities
- *The Asian American Comic Book*, four illustrated stories of Asian American history, to be published by Asian American Resource Workshop, Boston, 1988, approx. pp. 72. Designer and illustrator
- Consulting Artist, Oral History Center, Cambridge, Mass.

Murals

- 1988 "A Journey", a "Lifelines" project for Oral History Center, Cambridge, Mass. painted with students in oral history projects in Cambridge Public Schools
- 1987 "Peace Is Within Reach", Peace Committee, Moscow, U.S.S.R. An "International Arts for Peace" mural painted in collaboration with Soviet artists, David Fichter, Tiger Waterman and Soviet and U.S. teenagers
- 1986 "Unity / Community - A Chinatown Community Mural", Boston, Mass. with David Fichter and members of the Boston's Chinatown community
"U.S. / Laos Friendship Mural", Boston, Mass.
with Laotian bi-lingual students of Boston Public Schools
- 1979 Mobile Food Market, Cambridge, Mass. with Geert Burger
- 1978 Cambridge Food Co-op, Cambridge, Mass. with Geert Burger
- 1977 "BVAU / Chile Mural on the Boston Common", Boston, Mass. Design and Organizing Committee, painted with members of the Boston Visual Artists Union
- 1976 Elders Food Van, Cambridge Food Co-op, Cambridge, Mass. with Alice Evans
- 1975 Cambridge Food Co-op, Cambridge, Mass. with Alice Evans

Books

- The Road Map to Success - a Unique Development Guide for Small Arts Groups*, published by Massachusetts Cultural Alliance, Boston, Mass., 1988. Designer and illustrator.
- The Mango Tree*, published by Oral History Center, Cambridge, Mass., 1987. Designer
- Woman Abuse*, published by EMERGE, Boston, Mass., 1983
Designer and illustrator

Graphics and Posters

1969 - present

Scenic Painting and Stage Sets

- American Repertory Theatre, Cambridge, Mass. 1985
- International Players, Beirut, Lebanon 1970 - 71

PROFESSIONAL WORK (continued)

Exhibitions (selected)

- 1988 Hampden Gallery, University of Massachusetts,
Amherst, Mass. (Solo)
- 1987 "Primary Colors", Massachusetts College of Art, Boston,
Mass.
- 1986 Chinese Culture Institute, Boston
"First People", University of Massachusetts, Boston
- 1985 "Peaceworks", Boston Visual Artists Union, Boston
- 1984 "Social Concerns of the 80s", Boston University, Boston
- 1982 AAMARP Gallery, Northeastern University, Boston
(Solo, 1970-82 Retrospective)
- 1980 Sacramento Street Gallery, Cambridge, Mass. (Solo)
"New Social Realists", Northeastern University, Boston
- 1976 Tufts University, Medford, Mass. (Solo)
- 1975 "Commentary", Boston Visual Artists Union, Boston
- 1972 Contact Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon (Solo)
- 1969 "Faculty Show", Boston Museum School Gallery, Boston
- 1965 "Travelling Scholars", Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Teaching

- 1988 University of Massachusetts, Boston, Mass.
- 1969-72 International College, Beirut, Lebanon
- 1964-69 Boston Museum School, Boston, Mass.
- 1968-69 Tufts University, Medford, Mass.
- 1966 Monteith College, Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich.

EDUCATION

- 1961-63 James William Paige Travelling Scholar, Museum of
Fine Arts, Boston, Mass. in Pakistan and Egypt.
- 1958-61 Boston Museum School, Boston, Mass.
Painting (Major), Sculpture (Minor) 1960
Fifth-Year and Paige Award 1961
- 1956-57 L'Atelier de la Grande Chaumière, Paris, France
- 1955-56 The Polytechnic, London, England
Architecture (Major), Stage Design (Minor)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

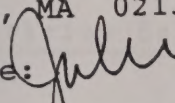
- Board member, Alliance for Cultural Democracy 1986 - present
- Organizer, Sacramento Street Gallery, Cambridge, Mass. 1981 - 83
- Organizer, United Street Artists, Cambridge, Mass. 1979 - 81
- Member, Boston Visual Artists Union, Boston, Mass. 1974 - present

- Projectionist (Member, IATSE)
- Billboard Painter (Licensed Rigger)
- Furniture-making, toy-making

THE BOSTON FOUNDATION

October 1, 1990

Ms. Julie Stone
Garden Resource Organizer
Boston Urban Gardeners at
the Community Farm
46 Chestnut Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Dear Ms. Stone: 

I am pleased to inform you that the members of the Boston Foundation's Fund for Parks and Open Space Enabling Committee, at a special sub-committee meeting on August 17th, 1990, voted a grant in the amount of \$1,900 to Berkeley Street Community Garden, payable to Boston Urban Gardeners at the Community Farm. This is grant is for a landscaping project. I am pleased to enclose a check in the amount of \$1,900.

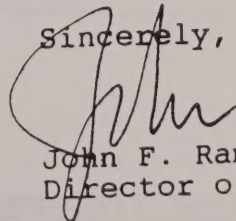
The money for these grants comes from the Boston Foundation's Fund for Parks and Open Space, established to provide small grants for community-based greenspace programs within the City of Boston.

We encourage grantees to make their own announcements of the Boston Foundation's support. Often this can best be done in the context of a story about the purpose and usefulness of the project for which the grant was made. The Foundation's staff will be glad to give advice or assistance if you feel that would be helpful.

Please note on your calendar that the Foundation will expect to receive a report on the expenditure of the grant and on the development of the project by this date next year.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



John F. Ramsey
Director of External Affairs

Encl. - Grant Payment
09180dlm1100

cc: William McCarthy

V
THE FUND FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

The Boston Foundation
Small Grant Program

Application

Date March 20, 1990

I. Name and address of your group or organization:

Berkeley Street Community Garden

East Berkeley Street between Shawmut Ave. and Tremont St.

contact

person Charles Whitlock, President

telephone 482-8953(4)

Brief description/mission of your organization or group:

Community gardening organization dedicated to food production for low to moderate income neighborhood residents. The gardeners are predominantly Chinese at present. By working with the following community groups, we are trying to broaden neighborhood involvement in the garden and introduce more beautification projects: Dwight Street Neighborhood Association, Eight Streets Neighborhood Association, and Castle Square Housing Development tenants.

Are you a non-profit tax-exempt [510 (c) (3)] organization? Yes _____ No* x

*If you are not a non-profit tax-exempt organization, what organization will be your "umbrella" for receiving funds?

Name Boston Urban Gardeners

Address 33 Harrison Avenue, 5th floor, Boston, MA 02111

Contact: Julie Stone

telephone 423-7497

II. Location

Name of project site: Berkeley Street Community Garden

Location: East Berkeley between Shawmut Ave. and Tremont St.

Site

ownership*: Boston Redevelopment Authority

*If your organization does not own the land on which your project will occur, please include a brief letter of agreement from the landowner.

III. Your Project

Please describe your project (use additional space if necessary):

This project would be a pilot for an "artists in the gardens" concept. The project will involve two major design components:

- 1) The design and construction of a prominent sign at the Shawmut Ave. entrance to the garden, to be seen by all those exiting the highway at East Berkeley St., to identify the garden and its ethnic memberships. The design would be an East/West motif, reflecting both the Asian and Euro-American cultures of those using the open space. Appropriate landscaping for both the Shawmut and Tremont Street edges of the garden would also be included.
- 2) The design of a post and signage system within the garden to delineate and identify the numerous garden plots and the membership status of the gardeners. This system would serve to unify the garden's appearance, giving it both an aesthetic and orderly presence. While highly functional, this would greatly benefit the community by bringing art into this large and highly visible open space.

Who will be involved in the project; how will the community be involved:

Artist and woodworker Wen-Ti Tsen, known and respected in Boston and in the Chinese community, would be the artist for this project. Community gardeners and neighborhood association members would review designs in a neighborhood jury. City Year youth corps members would help install the post system, as would volunteers from Mass. Half-Way houses under the direction of Boston Urban Gardeners.

Wen-Ti Tsen also speaks two dialects of Chinese and writes in Chinese, absolutely essential in effectively communicating with the community. How can your project be evaluated: (examples of evaluation materials might include such things as before and after photos, samples of flyers, list of participants, brief written report, etc.)

The project can be evaluated through before and after photos, from flyers and community notices, and from letters from volunteers and gardeners.

IV. Project Benefits

Why is this project important to the community

The inclusion of "functional" artwork by a reputable artist within the large, well-established Berkeley Garden would bring new clarity and aesthetic appeal to this open space resource. Over 100 community gardeners and many more community residents would be invited to participate in the improvement of neighborhood open space through this project, many for the first time.

Who will benefit from your project?

The community of gardeners and neighbors of the Berkeley Street site, as well as the entire South End community, will gain great benefit from this beautification and systemization project. Furthermore, the success of the "artist in the garden" concept in this project could lead to many more successful environmental/artistic collaborations.

IV. Project Budget

(a) Supplies and materials

Paint, wood for sign
Approx. 10 gallons stain, 100 pressure-treated
timbers for post system
Hardware for post/signage system

Total (a) \$900

(b) Transportation

Total(b) _____

(c) Contracts and technical specialists

Artists fee for design and construction of sign,
design of appropriate landscaping for both ends of
garden, and design of post and signage system for
garden interior

Total(c) 1,000

(d) Other budget items

Printing, architectural drawing costs
Film/documentation costs

Total(d) 100

Project Total \$2,000

Other sources of funds for the project ?

Grassroots Grant from Boston Public Facilities Dept.
In-kind donations; hundreds of hours of volunteer labor through
City Year and Mass Half-Way Houses

V. How does your project meet the program guidelines? (see "The Fund for Parks and Open Space - Guidelines" brochure)

This project specifically meets all the requirements of the Small Grant Program. The garden is in a mixed income neighborhood and serves many low-income residents of the Asian community. The art project would allow greater participation for non-gardening community residents and for those interested in joining the garden group. It particularly facilitates the working relationship between the Asian and Euro-American populations of the neighborhood, a difficult thing to do because of the language barrier. Finally, it utilizes volunteer groups, in-kind donations, and members of neighborhood associations in order to reach out to the community and find broader sources of support for the garden.

VI. Authorized signature of applicant:

Julie K Stone

Title: Garden Resources Organizer

Mail application and a copy of your {501 (c) (3)}, along with any enclosures (support letters, site plan, etc.) to:

The Enabling Committee
The Fund for Parks and Open Space
c/o Boston GreenSpace Alliance
44 Bromfield St. No. 207
Boston, MA 02108

THE FUND FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

The Boston Foundation
Small Grant Program

Application

Date 7/26/90

I. Name and address of your group or organization:

BERKELEY COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE
548 TREMONT ST
BOSTON, MA 02116

contact person William McCarthy telephone 338-6360

Brief description/mission of your organization or group:

THE BERKELEY COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE IS
dedicated to the preservation, renovation and administration
of the community gardens and open space located at
E Berkeley St between Shawmut Ave and Tremont St.

Are you a non-profit tax-exempt [510 (c) (3)] organization? Yes ☐ No* ☒

*If you are not a non-profit tax-exempt organization, what organization will be your "umbrella" for receiving funds?

Name BOSTON URBAN GARDENERS
Address 46 CHESTNUT ST JAMAICA RAIN, MA 02130
Contact: JULIE STONE
telephone _____

II. Location

Name of project site: BERKELEY COMMUNITY GARDENS

Location: E. Berkeley St between Shawmut Ave & Tremont St

Site ownership*: BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

*If your organization does not own the land on which your project will occur, please include a brief letter of agreement from the landowner.

III. Your Project

Please describe your project (use additional space if necessary):

Winter, Evergreen and Sculpture GARDEN.

Our project is to renovate and restore THE OPEN SPACE IN CENTER OF THE GARDEN. INSTALL RAISED BEDS FOR EVERGREEN PLANTING AND SPONSOR A CONTEST FOR SOUTH END / LOWER ROXBURY ARTISTS TO create a sculpture for this space.

Who will be involved in the project; how will the community be involved:

THE GARDENERS, HOPE HOUSE (A rehabilitation home located in neighborhood) will serve as LABOUR source. THE BOSTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND UNITED SOUTH END ARTIST would co-sponsor the SCULPTURE CONTEST.

How can your project be evaluated: (examples of evaluation materials might include such things as before and after photos, samples of flyers, list of participants, brief written report, etc.)

A written report would be completed with documentation.

IV. Project Benefits

Why is this project important to the community

This project is important to the community because it would extend the VISUAL BEAUTY OF THE GARDENS year round. It would create a meeting place for the neighbors and GARDENERS ALIKE. Serve as an example as how community GARDENERS and small open spaces with A CREATIVITY can create focus on a given parcel.

Who will benefit from your project?

THE GARDENERS FROM HAVING A CASUAL MEETING PLACE, THE TREES WILL BE SAVED FROM erosion and root damage. THE COMMUNITY will now have A SAFE OUTDOOR MEETING SPACE.

IV. Project Budget

(a) Supplies and materials

LANDSCAPE TIMBERS, LUMBER, HARDWARE
TOP SOIL, EVERGREENS, FERTILIZERS

Total (a) 1500.00

(b) Transportation

DELIVERY

Total(b) 200.00

(c) Contracts and technical specialists

LANDSCAPE COMPETER
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT (SERVICES DONATED)

Total(c) 400.00

(d) Other budget items

HOPE HOUSE LABOR.
SCULPTURE CONTEST PRIZE

Total(d) 900.00

Project Total \$ 3000.00

Other sources of funds for the project ?

BERKELEY COMMUNITY GARDENS FUND RAISER.
ART IN GARDENS. SEPTEMBER 22, 23

BERKELEY COMMUNITY GARDENS

ART IN THE GARDENS

"A FENCE SHOW"

SOUTH END OPEN STUDIOS
SEPTEMBER 22 AND 23, 1990
10 AM - 5 PM

ON THE ARTISTS DISPLAYING THEIR WORK ON THE FENCE OF
BERKELEY COMMUNITY GARDENS THE FENCE GARDENS WILL BE
ALIVE WITH EXHIBITS INCLUDING CHILDREN'S ART SHOW, FENCE PAINTING AND
ARTISTS' PRODUCE AND VEGGIES

FENCE DISPLAY SPACE IS AT LEAST 10' X 6'
SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTION \$25.00

TO PARTICIPATE PLEASE CALL OR COME TO
ARTS AND CULTURE CENTER
BERKELEY COMMUNITY GARDENS
211 TREMONT STREET
BERKELEY, MASS 04708

ALL ARTS NOT RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 15TH
WILL BE RETURNED TO THE ARTIST

ARTIST NAME
ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL

ARTISTS CAN BE REACHED BY PHONE OR MAIL
OR BY VISITING THE GARDENS

Appendix 10

Phase I Grassroots

July 9, 1964

Charlotte Kahn, Executive Director
Boston Urban Gardeners
22 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Mr. Kahn:

I am pleased to advise you that the Public Facilities Department has approved your proposal to rehabilitate the East Broadway Street community garden in the area of the old and to redevelop the 12 Bulfinch Street garden in Dorchester. This project has been selected to receive a \$70,000 Grassroots Program grant.

Representative Richard J. Daley of my staff will be in touch with you soon to discuss this contract, involving procedures and other matters.

The rehabilitation of these two areas will bring a significant change to the community in which they are located, and greatly contribute to the quality of life for neighborhood residents. Congratulations and best wishes for success with this important Grassroots project, and with your agency's continuing work in the neighborhoods of Boston.

Sincerely,

John F. Thompson
Director

cc: Linda Smith
Richard Thompson
Dorcas College

10/1/64

RAYMOND L. FLYNN, MAYOR



PUBLIC FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

July 1, 1989

Charlotte Kahn, Executive Director
Boston Urban Gardeners
33 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Ms. Kahn:

I am pleased to inform you that the **Public Facilities Department** has approved your proposal to rehabilitate the East Berkeley Street community garden in the South End and to redevelop the 32 Bullard Street garden in Dorchester. This project has been selected to receive a \$70,286 Grassroots Program grant.

Stephanie Bothwell and Doreen Cavanagh of my staff will be in touch with you soon to discuss your contract, invoicing procedures, and other issues.

The redevelopment of these two sites will bring a dramatic change to the communities in which they are located, and greatly contribute to an improved quality of life for neighborhood residents. Congratulations and best wishes for success with this important Grassroots project, and with your agency's continuing work in the neighborhoods of Boston.

Sincerely,

Lisa G. Chapnick
Director

cc: Esther Schlorholtz
Michael Taubenberger
Doreen Cavanagh

2071f/dmc



Boston Urban Gardeners at the Community Farm
46 Chestnut Avenue, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 (617) 522-1259

Stephanie Bothwell
City of Boston Public Facilities Department
15 Beacon Street, 10th Floor
Boston, MA. 02108

October 24, 1990

Re: Grassroots Grant Application for Phase II Improvements
Berkeley Street Community Garden

Dear Ms. Bothwell:

Boston Urban Gardeners at the Community Farm (BUG at the Farm) is happy to announce completion of the first phase of capital improvements to the Berkeley Street Community Garden. The work was accomplished thanks to a substantial Grassroots Grant from the Public Facilities Department of the City of Boston, and through collaboration among the members of the garden committee, the gardeners, local neighborhood associations and volunteers.

The proposed Phase II improvements, listed in order of priority in the Project Description, were developed through site visits and at a series of meetings of BUG at the Farm staff and members of the Berkeley Street Garden Coordinating Committee.

With a drawing of the current layout--remaining existing conditions and Phase I improvements--as a base, the BUG at the Farm staff and the Garden Committee can plan the completion of the plot layout. Abutting neighborhood associations will participate in planning the public open spaces in the garden.

Phase I, from initial site cleanup to dedication ceremony, was a perfect example of gardener empowerment and larger neighborhood involvement stimulated by land reclamation and capital improvements. We fully expect Phase II to maintain this spirit and level of activity. The garden organization and neighborhood associations will, during Phase II, continue the broad-based community design and planning process out of which is evolving a Master Plan for the site.

Details of garden operation--maintenance scheduling, tool needs, compost and soil-building practices, membership recruitment, communication and services, local fundraising, art in the garden and garden contests--are inevitably also addressed at design and implementation meetings preceding and during Phase II. Capital and organizational improvements go hand in hand.

We need again to express our personal appreciation to you for your commitment to Berkeley Street.

Yours truly,

Leroy G. Stoddard,
Executive Director

RAYMOND L. FLYNN, MAYOR



PUBLIC FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

DATE: JUNE 26, 1989

RE: GRASSROOTS CONTRACT FOR BULLARD STREET AND EAST BERKELEY STREET
COMMUNITY GARDENS BY BOSTON URBAN GARDENERS

STEPHANIE BOTHWELL, SR. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, PROJECT MANAGERS

32 Bullard Street

Scope of Work

Work with neighborhood residents to design a memorial park and community garden for the site. Boston Natural Areas Fund, Fields Corner Community Development Corporation, Fair Foods, (a non-profit organization that operates a feeding program out of the Pilgram Church in Uphams Corner), and community residents are committed to participation in the design and construction process.

Grade site;

Reconstruct retaining walls;

Repair chain link fence and install fence and gate between the food production area and the memorial park;

Install concrete entry walkway to include objects found and designed by neighborhood children, such as leaves, hand prints, hand-painted tiles, etc.;

Design and install plantings at the park -- annuals, perennials, bulbs, flowering trees, evergreen shrubs, sod and groundcover;

Install sign;

Prepare growing medium -- add soil amendments, lime, compost, rototill and plant winter rye.

Present four workshops to include the following subjects: Plant identification, plant material maintenance (pruning, fertilizing, dividing and planting annuals) low water use garden techniques, use and benefits of mulch, garden beautification, and high-yield food production techniques.

This project will involve neighborhood participation, with assistance from volunteer groups, in several areas:

- design and construction of concrete walkway through memorial park area;
- installation of plant materials;
- soil preparation in gardening plots and planting of winter rye;
- bi-annual garden clean-ups (spring and fall)

East Berkeley Street Community Garden

Scope of Work

Boston Urban Gardeners will coordinate with gardeners, the Berkeley Street Neighborhood Association, volunteer groups, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, and DPW to clean-up truckloads of trash that has accumulated over years of illegal dumping.

The rodent control program at Boston City Hospital will be called into coordinate with the gardeners' efforts and teach them effective rodent control measures.

A new, multiple-site water system will be installed to facilitate access to water from all parts of the garden. The water system installed as a part of the City's Revival Program deteriorated over the years, and, although the garden raised enough money through membership dues to install one central water spigot, the water situation in the garden is still unworkable. The spigot is constantly in need of repair, leaks continually, and its location forces elderly gardeners to carry heavy buckets of water from the spigot to their garden plots, a tedious and strenuous task.

The chain line perimeter fence and gates will be repaired or replaced, as necessary, to secure the garden and upgrade the appearance of the site for the entire community.

Landscaping improvements designed to make the garden more attractive, productive, and accessible for all community residents will include the following:

- * renovation of pathways necessary to access the repaired and improved water system;
- * pruning of trees and shrubs;
- * removal of several large, dead trees;
- * flower planting, both perennials and annuals, at designated sites for beautification (at Tremont and Shawmut ends of the garden and in one central area);
- * assisting gardeners to design a uniform fence/trellis system for the traditional oriental vertical planting techniques which give this garden such character. These fences are to define the individual gardeners' plots, to protect them from vandalism, and also to serve as a major source of trellising. (Currently, gardeners often use found materials from the neighborhood, such as bedsprings, boards from demolished buildings, etc. to make fences and trellises. Both the gardeners and the surrounding community would benefit from the use of more aesthetically-pleasing, orderly and structurally efficient materials in this very intensely planted space.)

Signs will be placed in conspicuous places to identify the garden.

A community design process will be initiated to begin to plan for garden permanence. Ideas for possible inclusion of passive recreational spaces, mini-park areas with flowers, trees, and seating, and formal gates to the garden (perhaps a Chinese gateway) will be discussed.

In order to accomplish these major transitional improvements, this site requires a substantial community organizing effort to bring together a disparate multi-lingual group of gardeners. A translator is crucial for communication so that there can be a consensus on landscape improvements in the garden, future design considerations, and ongoing maintenance. Leaders in the Asian community have indicated support for the project, and if the groundwork is laid, the talents latent in this group can be harnessed for the improvement and long-term maintenance of the garden.

Four workshops will be presented to include the following topics: Maintenance of the pathways, maintenance of common areas, maintenance and identification of annuals and perennials, pruning and low-water-use gardening techniques.

Grassroots Form 2

AGENCY NAME: Boston Urban GardenersPRELIMINARY
GRASSROOTS PROJECT BUDGETBerkeley Street SiteGrassroots ***
fundedMatch
fundedMaterials, Supplies & Equipment \$30/each)\$ amount\$ amountGarden plot fencing (150 plots)4500Street edge improvements (includes50005000Bobcat & dumpster rental, arhars,1000500Soil amendmnts, wood chips searing)50002 garden signs400Clean-up supplies (workgloves,550trashbags, etc.)Site Preparationweek avg.)** Construction Supervision (1.5 days/9450Fence repair and reconstruction8200Volunteer labor (20 volunteers1000@ \$25/day x 8 days)TOTAL ESTIMATED COST\$ 28000.00\$ 12500.00PersonnelTypenumberProject Management20%72705730Translator200Maintenance (2 year period)Berkeley St. gardenersnot CDBG eligible7000OtherDesign 5%2000Documentation150Soil TestPruning Workshop250Water system repair50001000TOTAL:\$ 43620.00\$ 22380.00TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS:\$ 66000.00

** This line item includes: soliciting inkind donations and services, supervising contracted work, soliciting volunteers, supervising volunteers, organizing gardeners (in several languages), acting as liaison with Rodent Control Dept., police, private sector businesses, homeless shelters, and National Guard, and implementation of design plans.

*** All budget items are to be billed at cost except where noted above

Grassroots Form 2

AGENCY NAME: Boston Urban GardenersPRELIMINARY
GRASSROOTS PROJECT BUDGET

Bullard Street Site

Grassroots ***
fundedMatch
fundedMaterials, Supplies & Equipment\$ amount\$ amount

Sod on prepared subbase

600

Plant materials/perennials annuals, shrubs

2700

2000

Walkway (concrete with tile/found object inlay)

1000

2 garden benches installed

1600

soil amendments

1000

1 flowering tree

300

Site Preparation

1 day/

** Construction Supervision (week avg.)

6300

Grade. repair, reconstruct retaining

6000

1000

Tree removal walls

1200

Fencing

800

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST\$19300.00\$ 5200.00PersonnelTypenumber

Project Management

20%

4444

2340

Neighborhood volunteers

1500

(10 @ \$25/day x 6 days)

Maintenance (2 year period)

Bullard St. gardeners

not CDBG eligible

5000

Other

Design 5%

1272

Rubbish removal

1000

Soil test

150

Documentation

500

Memorial plaque

TOTAL:

\$ 26666.00\$ 14040.00TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS:\$40706.00

** This line item includes: hiring contractors, supervising contracted work, soliciting in-kind contributions, supervising neighborhood volunteers, conducting 4 maintenance workshops, supervision of walkway design and implementation, organizing gardeners, and implementation of design plans.

*** All budget items are to be billed at cost except where noted above.

GRASSROOTS CONTRACT - BERKELEY ST. SITE
Contract # C-15104-90

Project Work Completed as of December 1989

- Fall Clean Up with gardeners and volunteers - 1 day
 - PFD
 - Massachusetts Half-Way House Association
 - Neighbors and Gardeners
- City Year Volunteer Corps Work Crew - 3 weeks
 - Fence removal, clearing, grading, stump removal, mulching, pruning along the length of Berkeley Street
 - Clean-up and preparation of plots not in use
 - Construction of demonstration plot with fencing alternatives
 - General garden clean-up and hauling
- Installation of new 5' black vinyl clad chain-link fence along Berkekely Street length
- Repairs of fence and gates on Public Alley edge
- Removal of Illegally Dumped garbage and garden debris
 - 1- 30 yard dumpster load
 - 25 - 7-10 CY dump truck loads
- Series of Design and Organizational Meetings to develop garden members' participation in planning for design improvements and developing coordinated planning with adjacent neighborhood groups.
 - Berkeley Street Gardeners Association
 - Eight Streets Neighborhood Association
 - Dwight Street Neighborhood Association
 - Ambrose House - Residential Program of Mass. Half-Way House Assoc.
- Planning for common flower garden along public alley at Shawmut end of the garden

FOR DISCUSSION 12-19

ADDITIONAL WORK REQUIRING CONTRACT EXTENSION

GARDEN PLOTS

Garden Plot Fencing

- Posts 4"x4"x6' (4' high) and nails	approx. 1100 @ 10.00 ea.	11,000
- Stringers	approx. 2000 @ 3.00 ea.	6,000
- Cladding	6,500LF (Turkey wire- lattice)	5,000-16,000
- Gates with hardware	170 @ 20.00	3,400

Developing Criteria and Design Alternatives for Plot Fencing

20 hours 300

Fencing Workshops

- Contest guidelines, instructions		
- Structural system- posts, gates, stringers, etc..	20 hours @ 20.00	400

Fencing Installation- basic structure (volunteers) and cladding (gardeners)

- coordination of gardeners and volunteers		
- supervision, management	3 weeks- 120 hours	1,814

OTHER WORK

Main Path Improvements

- Timber Edges	1400LF	2,000
- Gravel		1,000

Design of Berkeley Street edge tree planting

- Layout of plan to accommodate existing Autumn Olives, gate locations, shrubs, etc.	8 hours	120
- On-site supervision of planting	12 hours	180

Totals

Lowest estimate- (Cladding fences with turkey-wire or equivalent)
32,214

Highest estimate - (Cladding fence with pre-fab lattice or equivalent)
42,214

Currently in budget

Plot Fencing	4,500
Street Improvements	<u>5,162.70</u>
Total available in budget	9,662.70

Separate Contract- through the Browne Fund?

Tremont Street Edge

-Schematic Design 30-40 hours	600
-materials and Construction	30,000

89
50pc

$$\begin{array}{r} 13,000 \\ - 1,500 \\ \hline 11,500 \end{array}$$

GRASSROOTS FUNDING REQUEST FORM
REQUISITION FOR FUNDS

TO: Grassroots Program Manager
Public Facilities Dept.
Neighborhood Development Division
15 Beacon Street, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

FROM: BUG/Berkeley St. Site
Contract No.: C-15104-90
Date Requested: 12/4/89
Request No.: 4

Total Award	Current Request	Cumulative Amount*	Contract Balance
\$ 43,620.00	13001.65	17027.93	26592.07

Budget Categories

		Current Request	Cumulative Amount*	Budget Balance
Fencing (Plots)			\$	\$ 4500.00
Street Improve.			837.30	5162.70
Signs				400.00
Supplies			89.80	260.20
Const. Super.			3198.45	6251.55
Fence Rep. & Cons			8200.00	0
Proj. Mgmt.			2837.98	4432.02
Translator				300.00
Design	2,000.00	5	1864.40	135.60
Pruning	250.00			250.00
Water System	5,000.00			5000.00
Documentation				
Totals	\$ 43,620.00	\$ 13001.65	\$ 17027.93	\$ 26592.07

*Cumulative amount requested including current amount requested.

Signature _____
Executive Director

attachments: invoices

3024f/dmcb

REQUISITION FOR FUNDS

TO: Grassroots Program Manager
Public Facilities Dept.
Neighborhood Development Division
5 Beacon Street, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

FROM: BUG/Berkeley St. Site
Contract No.: C-15-104-90
Date Requested: 9/24/90
Request No.: 13

Total Award	Current Request	Cumulative Amount*	Contract Balance
54,504.00	3244.70	46301.18	8202.82

Budget Categories	Budget Amount	Current Request	Cumulative Amount*	Budget Balance
Planning	\$ 13,050.70	\$ 2079.47	\$ 9481.52	\$ 3569.18 ^{<also 1300>}
Street Improvment.	837.30		837.30	Ø ^{equipment use}
Signs	1,400.00		Ø	1400.00
Supplies	1,462.80	126.00	1128.02	334.78
Instr. Super.	11,664.00	498.45	10245.04	1418.96
Finance Rep.&Const.	8,200.00		8200.00	Ø
Facilities Mgmt.	9,089.20	540.78	7716.84	1372.36
Translator	200.00		100.00	100.00
Design	2,600.00		2592.46	7.54
Water System	5,000.00		5000.00	Ø
Waste Removal	1,000.00		1000.00	Ø
Totals	\$ 54,504.00	\$ 3244.70	\$ 46301.18	\$ 8202.82

Cumulative amount requested including current amount requested.

Signature _____
Executive Director

Attachments: invoices

f/dmcb

To: Stephanie Bothwell
Public Facilities Department
15 Beacon Street, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
From: Janet Dillon, Financial Manager
Re: Grassroots Contract # C-15104-90
Period: August 1 - 31, 1990
Amount: \$3,281.54

Invoice

Berkeley Street	Hours	Hourly Rate	Amount Billed
Construction Supervision	4.00	17.36	69.45
Construction Supervision	35.75	12.00	429.00
DB&S Lumber	Fencing		283.15
DB&S Lumber	Fencing		27.59
DB&S Lumber	Fencing		66.88
Gerrity Lumber	Fencing		466.50
Gerrity Lumber	Fencing		242.49
Gerrity Lumber	Fencing		32.48
Gerrity Lumber	Fencing		315.63
NUR Landscaping	Fencing		108.00
Grossman's	Fencing		335.92
M.P.White Hardware	Fencing		7.98
M.P.White Hardware	Fencing		21.13
M.P.White Hardware	Fencing		18.15
M.P.White Hardware	Fencing		83.35
M.P.White Hardware	Fencing		25.47
Boston Building Materials Coop	Fencing		34.25
Linda Lesyna	Fencing		10.50
G. Kanellopoulos	Supplies		3.00
Al Lakiss	Supplies		3.00
Jack Powers	Supplies		120.00
Project Management @ 20%			540.78
	Subtotal:		3244.70

Bullard Street		
Copy Cop	Documentation	36.84
Project Management @ 20%		
	Subtotal:	36.84

Total Billed: \$3,281.54

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Contract # C-15104-90

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Currently in budget

Plot Fencing

4,500

Street Improvements

5,162.70

Total available in budget

9,662.70

Separate Contract- through the Browne Fund?

Tremont Street Edge

-Schematic Design 30-40 hours

600

-Materials and Construction

30,000

Berkley Street Schedule & Priorities

May 21-24

City Year & Linda & other volunteers & Mass 1/2 way

- 1) Complete modular model plot fencing units
- 2) Tremont end fencing line
- 3) Pathway fencing line
- 4) Have Tony's fence install 50-100 10'-7' posts, all need cutting
 - a) pick up green wire fencing
 - b) coordinate Mass 1/2 way & other volunteer support
- 5) All trash removed by BRA

May 28-June 1

- 1) Installation of new fence for individual gardeners, prioritize with committee
- 2) BUG priority along pathways and either end!
- 3) Develop gate system for temporary fence with wood, wire, staples & hardware.

July 9-13

Wenti & Linda

- 1) Construction & installation of sign and arbor at Tremont & Shawmut ends.
- 2) Schedule other trash removal.
- 3) Schedule volunteers for post holes.
- 4) Order materials & hardware & set construction.
- 5) Confirm installation dates.
- 6) Flower donation & flower beds (while doing construction).
- 7) Schedule major planting in beginning of July.

Other Projects & Misc. Volunteer Work

- 1) Tree installation by city - 30 ginkgo trees & other trees.
- 2) Install fencing gradually, spend all \$ by July?

See about extension. Committee & Land Trust work to develop strategy.

Reasons for Land Trust

- permanence, funding options, optimism, possibility to structure organization

- 3) Upgrade pathways, keep weeds down & mulch with wood chips(gradually work with gardeners & volunteers). Target Fall clean-up & mega-mulch!
- 4) Weed-wack & rake clear both Shawmut and Tremont ends.
- 5) Turnover plot by gate.
- 6) Clear front and all debris
- 7) Trash pick-up.

Appendix 11

Phase II Grassroots

June 14, 1991

Cassidy, Janet Kelly
City Council
Room 1013
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Cassie Kelly:

At the request of Roger Brown, I am writing to inform you of the results of the recent study conducted by the City of Boston, Office of Community Development, regarding the needs of the City's homeless population. The study was conducted by the City of Boston, Office of Community Development, and the results are being shared with you for your information and use.

The City of Boston, Office of Community Development, is currently conducting a study of the needs of the City's homeless population. The study is being conducted by the City of Boston, Office of Community Development, and the results are being shared with you for your information and use.

Part of the study is to determine the needs of the City's homeless population. The study is being conducted by the City of Boston, Office of Community Development, and the results are being shared with you for your information and use.

In order for the City of Boston to be able to provide services for the homeless, it is necessary to have information about the needs of the homeless population.

We are very appreciative of your efforts to date and would like to see you continue to work with us on this issue.

[Handwritten signature]
Roger Brown



Boston Urban Gardeners at the Community Farm
46 Chestnut Avenue, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 (617) 522-1259

June 21, 1991

Councilor James Kelly
City Council
Boston City Hall
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Councilor Kelly:

At the request of Roger Stearns, I am writing to reiterate briefly what is needed to release funds to continue the capital and organizational improvements to the Berkeley Street Community Garden. Since the capital improvements, organizational, designation and ownership issues are all tied together, action on any of these fronts will serve to free the log jam that is frustrating us all.

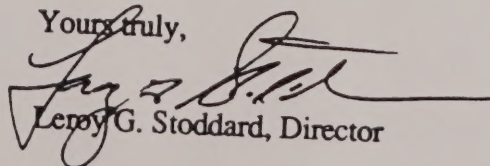
The City of Boston Public Facilities Department is in receipt of our proposal for a Grassroots Program grant of \$59,800 of Community Development Block Grant funds for Phase II improvements at Berkeley Street. PFD requires permission from the landowner for such work to take place, permission which was granted for Phase I. PFD furthermore needs assurances from the BRA that the investment will have an adequate lifespan, say, a minimum of seven to ten years, to justify the expenditure.

Patrick McGuigan, now Acting Director of PFD, has since the beginning of this issue simply requested a letter from Tom O'Malley of the BRA granting permission to make improvements and making assurances as to their longevity. That letter alone will free up the funds. If Mr. O'Malley is now ready to go further about designation and ownership in this letter, all to the better, but the minimum need not wait for the maximum.

In order for Mr. O'Malley to have no more reasons for delay, the issue must be heard and voted on at the BRA's Board meeting on June 27.

We are very appreciative of your efforts to date and hopeful that with your leadership we can resolve this issue next week.

Yours truly,



Leroy G. Stoddard, Director

cc: Roger Stearns

RAYMOND L. FLYNN, MAYOR



PUBLIC FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

September 17, 1991

Mr. Leroy Stoddard
Executive Director
Boston Urban Gardeners
at the Community Farm
46 Chestnut Avenue
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Re: Berkeley Street Gardens

Dear Mr. Stoddard:

I am pleased to advise you that the City of Boston, acting by and through its Public Facilities Department, will award Boston Urban Gardeners at the Community Farm a \$60,000 grant through our Grassroots/Physical Improvements Program for the costs related to the above project.

The terms and conditions of the Grassroots/Physical Improvements grant will be outlined with the final closing documents. John Berg will contact you shortly to finalize the conditions of the grant.

We appreciate the work that BUG at the Community Farm has already accomplished and look forward to a successful project on Berkeley Street.

Sincerely,

Paul Roche
General Counsel
Public Facilities Department

cc: Darlean McBrayer
Michael Taubenberger

3435U



LISA G. CHAPNICK, DIRECTOR—15 BEACON STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108 (617) 720-4300

PROJECT.MANAGER: John Berg

PROJECT #

A0007A

FINANCE SPECIALIST: Darlean McBrayer

LOAN # (A&F only)

AMENDMENT

☐

OWNER/DEVELOPER:

Last Name(s):

Boston Urban Gardeners @ the
Community Farm

PROJECT:

Berkeley Street Community Garden Ph. II

Address
or
Name:

Berkeley Street between Tremont
and Shawmut Avenue

(If Applicable)

COMMITMENT AMOUNT:\$ 60,000

TYPE: LOAN ☐

GRANT ☒

BUDGET PROG:

Land & Building

Management

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

FISCAL YEAR: 92

TERMS: (COMPLETE USING AVAILABLE INFORMATION)

LOAN TERM:	YRS
INTEREST RATE:	%

REPAYMENTS: (CHECK ONE)

Monthly ☐
Quarterly ☐
Annually ☐
Other ☐

PERIODIC REPAYMENT AMT:\$ _____

TOTAL REPAYMENT AMT:\$ _____

APPROPRIATION CODES:

1. 038-831-3642-8H16-0290
2. _____
3. _____

ESTIMATED 1ST DRAWDOWN DATE: SEPT. 21, 91

SERVICING BANK: _____

SECURED: Y/N

NATURE OF SECURITY: _____

USE/DEED RESTRICTIONS: _____

DATE OF FIRST REPAYMENT: _____

DEFERRED INTEREST: Y/N

BALLOON PAYMENT: Y/N

OTHER TERMS: _____

APPROPRIATION AMOUNTS:

1. \$ 60,000
2. \$ _____
3. \$ _____

TOTAL \$ 60,000

CONTRACT #:

SIGNATURE SECTION

Y/N changes affecting eligibility in the following sections have been made since the original enrollment form was executed. (Changes require a new enrollment form, which should be attached to the original.)

- n/a
- ☒ Eligibility determination section
 - ☐ Funding increase (applicable only to N&A projects)
 - ☒ Use of federal funds
 - ☒ Environmental review section
 - ☒ Non-profit/for-profit recipient
 - ☐ Project complies with blanket eligibility/env. criteria

JB

PM

Project file will contain the necessary compliance and verification documents to support all enrollment/commitment form claims

JB

PM

[Signature]
FINANCE REPRESENTATIVE
[Signature]
DEPUTY DIRECTOR LAND
[Signature]
DEPUTY DIRECTOR A&F
[Signature]
COMPLIANCE/ELIGIBILITY OFFICER
[Signature]
DIRECTOR

9/15/91
DATE
9/13/91
DATE
9/13/91
DATE
9/16/91
DATE
9.16.91
DATE

Enrollment Date:

C.D.B.G. Project Eligibility Summary

Project Name: BERKELEY STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN - Phase 2Operating Organization: BOSTON URBAN GARDENERS AT THE COMMUNITY FARM, INC.Funding Amount Requested: \$ 60,000.00 1/8, 17 (J) Appropriation Code: 038-830-365H-Project Description: CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT TO AN EXISTING GARDEN. THE IMPROVEMENTS WILL INCLUDE ADDITIONAL GARDEN PLOTS, FENCING AND POSTS.Eligibility Category and Number: Public Facilities and Improvements 105(A),(2),570,201(C) (J)

National Objective (Check one — see instructions for information to be provided):

1. Benefits Primarily Low- and Moderate - Income People
2. Aids in the Prevention or Elimination of Slums and Blight
3. Urgent Needs (Describe):

CT: 705 & 706 = 67.5% x L/M

Minority Needs Review:

N/A

Cost Breakdown (List by line item):

SEE ATTACHMENT

Environmental Status (Check all that apply):

CD-8 Completed

Level of Clearance Finding Made

Project is Exempt

Project is Categorically Excluded

Environmental Assessment Completed

Environmental Impact Statement Completed

☒Date 7/15/91 (J)☒

Date

☐

No new Review

☐

Date

☐

Date

PFD Project Manager: [Signature]Phone No. 635-0241Recommended for funding: [Signature]

Division Deputy Director

Date

Approved as to eligibility and conformity with neighborhood strategy:

[Signature]
Planning/Policy

Date

8/12/91

Approved as to fund availability:

Chief Financial Officer

Date

C.D.B.G. Environmental Project DescriptionProject Name: BERKELEY STREET COMMUNITY GARDENOperating Organization: BOSTON URBAN GARDENERS AT THE COMMUNITY FARM, INC.Funding Amount: \$ 60,000.00 Program Year: XVIIEligibility Category: Public Facilities & Improvements 105(A), (2), 570, 201(c)

Has this project been funded in a prior funding year?

Yes ☒ No ☐ If yes, what year(s)? 1989

Program/Project Description (describe purpose of program and list all components or activities of this project):

PHASE II OF THIS PROJECT INCLUDES INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL GARDEN PLOTS, COMPLETION OF FENCING AND POSTS.

Project Location (give address and/or neighborhood and Census Tracts):

E. Berkeley Street, South End: Census Tract #705

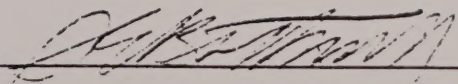
Project Duration (give funding period and/or anticipated starting and finishing dates):

September 12, 1991 thru June 30, 1992

Public Controversy (indicate any anticipated opposition or unresolved issues with regard to this project):

N/A

Additional Information:

PFD Project Manager:  Phone No. 635-0241

Recommended for Approval: _____ Date: _____

Division Deputy Director

CITY OF BOSTON

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

DECISION OF NO NEW ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification: Berkeley Street Community Garden (Phase 2),
Year XVII

The Berkeley Street Community Garden project originally underwent an environmental assessment on July 24, 1989, which resulted in a determination of Categorical Exclusion status, pursuant to 24 CFR 58.35. The Removal of Grant Conditions was issued by HUD on September 11, 1989. Subsequently, additional CDBG assistance in the amount of \$60,000 is requested to complete this phased project. Original project activity and scope have not changed. Earlier documentation regarding the project's activities and environmental review is enclosed.

Since there are no changes in the nature, magnitude, or extent of the project not anticipated in the original scope of the project, that the environmental impacts are identical to those of the original project, that there are no new circumstances or environmental conditions which may affect the project, therefore the existing Finding of Categorical Exclusion status is still valid and no new environmental review is required.

8/12/91
Date

8-13-91
Date

Jennifer Weiss
Environmental Clearance Officer
Paul D. Gah
Certified By
Gordon Carter
Title

3431P

Appendix 12

South End Open Space Needs Assessment

SOUTH END

OPEN SPACE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Sponsored by the Boston Redevelopment Authority

Stephen Carlin, Director

David Matthews

Robert J. Farrell, Chairman

John J. Walsh, Vice Chairman

James R. Tierney, Treasurer

Charles J. Jones, Vice Treasurer

Michael J. Dryden, Vice Chairman, Subcommittees

Kate Sullivan, Secretary

by

Boston Urban Observatory, Inc.

February, 1984

MEMORANDUM

TO: The South End Community

FROM: Stephen Coyle, Director

DATE: February 29, 1988

RE: Comments on the South End Open Space Needs Assessment

SOUTH END

Residents of the South End have set a high standard of commitment to the future of their neighborhood by participating, and in many cases initiating, planning and design projects that address community concerns.

OPEN SPACE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In June 1987, the South End Community and the City of Boston entered into a partnership to conduct an Open Space Needs Assessment. The guidelines for the assessment were developed by the community and the City. The assessment was designed to identify the community's needs for open space, including parks, playgrounds, and other recreational facilities. The assessment was conducted by the City of Boston, with the community providing input and feedback throughout the process. The results of the assessment will be used to guide the City's planning and development efforts in the South End.

In conjunction with the assessment, the City of Boston conducted a series of public hearings to gather input from the community. The hearings were held at various locations throughout the South End, and were attended by a large number of residents. The City of Boston is committed to working with the community to address its open space needs, and the results of the assessment will be used to guide the City's planning and development efforts in the South End.

Planning to enhance the quality of life in the South End will require an understanding of the community's needs for open space. The assessment was designed to identify the community's needs for open space, including parks, playgrounds, and other recreational facilities. The assessment was conducted by the City of Boston, with the community providing input and feedback throughout the process. The results of the assessment will be used to guide the City's planning and development efforts in the South End.

Submitted to the Boston Redevelopment Authority

Stephen Coyle, Director

Board Members

Robert J. Farrell, Chairman

John J. Walsh, Vice Chairman

James K. Flaherty, Treasurer

Clarence J. Jones, Vice Treasurer

Michael F. Donlan, Vice Chairman, Subcommittees

Kane Simonian, Secretary

by

Boston Urban Gardeners, Inc.

February, 1988

MEMORANDUM

TO: The South End Community

FROM: Stephen Coyle, Director

DATE: February 29, 1988

RE: Comments on the South End Open Space Needs Assessment

Residents of the South End have set a high standard of commitment to the future of this neighborhood by participating, and in many cases initiating, planning and zoning measures designed to address community concerns.

In June 1986, the City first announced the South End Neighborhood Housing Initiative (SENHI) to create needed housing on city-owned land. The guidelines for the SENHI program were shaped by an unprecedented community review process which resulted in standards for affordability, parking, urban design, gardens and open space, among others. The outcome of the first phase of SENHI -- 302 new units of housing with 211 affordable units; parking; and open space -- is testimony to a new era of partnership between the community and city planners.

In conjunction with SENHI, the city commissioned a density study to assist in evaluating community-initiated zoning proposals to reduce density. This study, "The South End Density Impact Study", covered nine of the South End Planning District's thirteen census tracts. The study supported the community's proposed zoning measures, and after alot of hard work on the part of community residents and city planners, those zoning measures are now law.

Planning to ensure the quality of life in the South End must include an understanding of the interdependence between housing and open space. Last year the BRA asked Boston Urban Gardeners to prepare an open space needs assessment including all census tracts within the South End Planning District. The purpose of this study was to provide the BRA and the community with an overview of open space issues to be considered in the course of planning for South End.

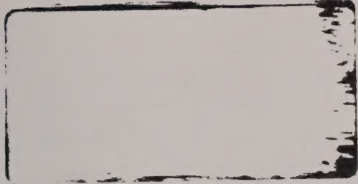
The South End Open Space Needs Assessment offers an in-depth examination of the population characteristics and open space resources of each census tract within the South End, and relies extensively on interviews with residents to determine the community's needs and preferences. It is not only an analysis of current and future conditions, but a reflection of the community's needs and aspirations.

I would like to commend Boston Urban Gardeners and the residents of the South End who participated in this study for their diligence and commitment to planning for the future of their community. This study will serve as an important planning tool to provide the public open spaces that are critical to the quality of life of all South End residents.

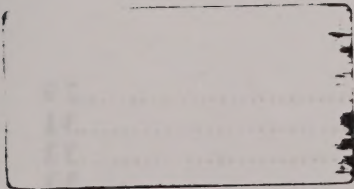
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We would like to thank those residents and community leaders in the South End who have been instrumental in the development of this project. We would also like to thank those residents and community leaders in the South End who have been instrumental in the development of this project.

SOUTH END

OPEN SPACE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The purpose of this assessment is to identify the open space needs of the South End community. The assessment was conducted by the South End Community Development Corporation (SECD) in partnership with the City of Boston's Department of Public Works (DPW).

The assessment was conducted in three phases. The first phase involved a literature review of existing open space studies and reports. The second phase involved a series of focus group discussions with community members. The third phase involved a field survey of open space in the South End.

The results of the assessment indicate that the South End community has a high need for open space. The community members identified a variety of open space needs, including parks, playgrounds, and green spaces. The field survey also identified a number of potential open space sites in the South End.

The assessment also identified a number of barriers to the development of open space in the South End. These barriers include a lack of funding, a lack of political support, and a lack of community awareness.

Based on the results of the assessment, the SECD and DPW have developed a number of recommendations for the development of open space in the South End. These recommendations include the creation of a community-based open space committee, the development of a community-based open space plan, and the implementation of a series of open space projects.

The SECD and DPW are committed to the development of open space in the South End. We hope that the results of this assessment will help to guide the development of open space in the South End.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Boston Urban Gardeners would like to thank Mayor Raymond L. Flynn, Boston Redevelopment Authority Director Stephen Coyle and the BRA's Board of Directors for giving us the opportunity to perform an open space needs assessment for the South End.

We would also like to thank those residents and community leaders of the South End who took valuable time from their busy lives to respond to our questionnaire and to provide insights into the current and future needs of this diverse and exciting community.

Thank you also to the staff of the BRA for their assistance with our research, and to the staff of the Mayor's Office of Capital Planning for their cooperative approach to open space planning.

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METHODOLOGY

For the purposes of this study, we separated the South End into its thirteen separate census tracts as delineated by the U.S. Census Bureau. For each census tract, we examined demographic characteristics in order to assess the particular open space resources required for that area.

For the purposes of this study, we are using the 1980 Federal Census, which provides information on a census-tract basis. According to this census, the population of the South End in 1980 was 27, 125.¹

Within the context of the census tract analysis, we next took an inventory of the range of public and private, designated and undesignated open space resources available in each census tract, and evaluated the size, ownership and maintenance mechanism for each space to the greatest degree possible.

In conjunction with the inventory of open spaces by census tract, we undertook a series of interviews with residents, workers, park users, and community leaders to obtain their general attitudes about open space in the South End and their specific views about each space. (A sample questionnaire is attached; see Appendix.) More than 150 people were interviewed.

We also examined all available past planning studies of the South End, with particular focus on the studies leading up to the 1965 South End Urban Renewal Plan, the plan itself and associated maps, and the 1987 South End Density Impact Study and Zoning Recommendations.

We also reviewed past open space plans for the City of Boston, the use of open space standards generally and in Boston, and South End population projections. After substantial analysis, we decided upon an open space acreage per 1,000 population standard to use as a guideline for the purpose of this study. Finally, we reviewed development plans for areas adjacent to the South End.

Our recommendations were made on the basis of community concerns, conventional open space planning methodology, population projections, and what we hope to be sound and practical professional judgment.

It should perhaps be noted that this study pertains to recreational and open space needs only. To that end, residents and community leaders gave their time and thoughts to issues relevant to this study and no others. We are aware of the critical housing shortage in the South End and of other demands on this one-square-mile neighborhood, and recognize that occasionally the community and its planners must decide among important and competing priorities. It was our intent to contribute to a necessarily complex decision-making process

¹ The more recent census of 1985 originally showed the South End to contain almost 30,000 persons. After this census was contested by the state, the South End took a disproportionate cut in estimated population, losing almost 5,000 persons in the final reduced count, accounting for a full one-fourth of the reduction city-wide.

One thousand new units of housing in the South End are underway which would, if multiplied by Boston's average occupancy rate of 2.4 persons/unit, bring the South End's estimated 1985 population of 25,000 to approximately 27,400 before the year 1990, and the next census. This is equivalent to the 1980 census total. We are therefore using the 1980 census numbers exclusively for the purposes of this study.

by performing a rigorous and comprehensive analysis of the open space needs of the South End community within the time and budget allotted.

We hope that in the final analysis this study will serve especially those families and individuals who depend upon both affordable housing and nearby public open spaces, and that means will be found to achieve a high quality of life for all South End residents.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Existing Conditions

- The South End Planning District, which covers the South End and Lower Roxbury, is one of the most densely populated areas in the city. Within approximately one square mile of land area, the district contains approximately 27,000 residents and, with 40 acres of public open space, roughly 1.46 acres of public open space per 1,000 residents. This compares with 5.45 acres of public open space per 1,000 residents in the Back Bay; 7.42 acres/1,000 residents in South Boston; and 2.19 acres/1,000 residents in Charlestown.
- Density and demographic characteristics of the district indicate that a large percentage of residents rely on access to nearby public open space. Many residents live on fixed incomes or below the poverty line, and many do not have access to a car. These factors limit access to private or semi-private open spaces or to public open spaces in adjoining neighborhoods. The need for public open space is underscored by the nature of the neighborhood's housing stock. Housing is generally multi-family and rental, allowing limited access to private backyards and roofdecks.
- The South End Planning District's significant public open space resources (Peters Park, 2.3 acres; Southwest Corridor Parkland, 5.55 acres in the study area; Titus Sparrow Park, 1.5 acres; Rotch Playground, 2.8 acres; Ramsay (Derby) Park, 5.5 acres; Carter Playground, 5 acres) are located at the edges of the neighborhood. This limits access by some residents of central portions of the district, and also indicates that the neighborhood's large open space resources are shared by residents of other planning districts.
- The total population of the planning district is projected to be 30,400-33,000 by the year 2000. After extensive analysis of urban open space planning approaches and standards in current and past use, Boston Urban Gardeners adopted the 1.6-2.5 acres of public open space per 1,000 residents standard used by Thomas Planning Services, Inc., for the BRA's South End Density Impact Study and Zoning Recommendations (January, 1987). While the midrange of the standard, or 2 acres per 1,000 residents would be ideal, a ratio of 1.6 acres of public open space per 1,000 residents is recommended for the South End Planning District based on need, community preferences for land uses, and the amount of available land. This indicates the need for a total of 50-53 acres of public open space by the year 2000 based on the BRA's projected South End Planning District population, or 10-13 acres more than the 40 acres currently designated as permanent public open space.

Results of Community Interviews

The recommendations included in this report are consistent with an apparent community consensus. The apparent consensus, drawn from in-depth interviews with residents and community leaders, is as follows:

- 1) There is currently almost enough public open space in the neighborhoods to serve today's population. However, existing open space suffers lack of use due to poor physical conditions, erratic maintenance, vulnerability to crime and drug dealing, and overall negative expectations. These conditions do seem to be changing for the better.
- 2) There are not enough usable tot lots in the area. This is a critical need, not only for families with young children, but for almost every daycare facility in the neighborhood.
- 3) The large, multi-use playgrounds could benefit substantially from programming and skilled adult supervision. Supervision would support youth at risk, reduce crime and vandalism, and enable smaller children to use the playgrounds without fear.
- 4) The neighborhood's community gardens are perceived as part of the existing open space system. If anything, more gardens are desired.
- 5) There appears to be some degree of longing for a "greensward" or large passive park area. Currently the only even moderately large green spaces -- Blackstone and Franklin Squares -- are perceived as generally unusable due to negative social behavior in their centers.
- 6) Residents appreciate small landscaped areas -- street trees, vest-pocket parks, nicely kept front yards -- although there is some feeling of exclusion from locked open spaces. These spaces add to an overall sense of quality of life, but are not seen as substitutes for more usable areas.
- 7) The creation of additional public open space should keep pace with increased densities from new residential and commercial development in the neighborhood.

Recommendations

Land Use Planning Recommendations

- Significant potential exists to meet the goal of an additional 13 acres of public open space. According to the community's preferences, a mix of large "greensward" areas, active play spaces, smaller landscaped and garden areas is desirable.
- The neighborhood's 10 community gardens (3.3 acres), as well as a tot lot and two small passive parks, not now protected from development (.3 acres) should be zoned as open space and designated to a South End Open Space Land Trust. The Trust would reflect the diverse needs and interests of the community and be established to own and maintain these and other future South End open spaces for public benefit. Successful models of open space land trusts in other cities should be explored.
- The Massachusetts Department of Public Works' 5.3-acre right-of-way along Melnea Cass Boulevard has the potential to be a significant open space resource combined with development. Future transit development should be designed to preserve the land at grade for community use.
- Additional open space should be incorporated into SENHI Phase II developments where appropriate.
- Development of the Turnpike Air Rights should include significant active and passive open space resources to serve both Chinatown and the South End. The Zoning Commission has adopted Article 33, open space subdistricts, which allows for mapping transit corridor air- rights to require that 50% of the area be used for open space.
- The development plan for the Newmarket Square/South Bay should include recreational and passive open space resources to serve the South End, Roxbury, Dorchester and South Boston neighborhoods. Open space consideration should be integrated with the primary goals of the EDIC plan for development of area.
- As much open space as possible should be incorporated into future Crosstown Industrial Park development given the high population densities in the area and the need for more varied open space resources. Examples of the successful integration of commercial and open space uses are the ballfield at Digital and the tot lot at Stride Rite.
- Every effort should be made to explore options for creating additional large-scale green areas in conjunction with planning for major projects on the neighborhood's periphery. For example, the proposed plan for the Fort Point Channel District now under community review provides for substantial new open space. With coordinated planning, the South End could obtain access to a substantial passive park area on the northeast side of the district, and appropriate open space links should be explored. Planning by the State Executive Office of Transportation and Construction for the depression of the Central Artery and construction of the Third Harbor Tunnel should also incorporate substantial open space planning links to the South End.

Capital Improvements Recommendations

Boston Urban Gardeners recommends that:

- 1) the Boston Parks and Recreation Department improve all city-owned recreational and open space facilities in the South End/Lower Roxbury, consistent with the Mayor's Office of Capital Planning Department's 5-year Open Space Plan, with particular emphasis on the neighborhood's tot lots and multi-use playgrounds;
- 2) the Boston Public Facilities Department reclaim the Mackey School paved schoolyard, at least in part, for passive and active recreational use by children, in consultation with the Mackey School principal and staff and the Ellis Neighborhood Association;
- 3) the Blackstone School yard be cleaned of glass, that benches and play equipment be repaired, and the Community School's desire for a mural and garden be explored and supported by the City of Boston's Public Facilities Department;
- 4) the Hurley School playground, currently paved and partially used for parking, be redesigned, at least in part, by the City of Boston's Public Facilities Department in close consultation with the principal, staff and neighbors, to provide safe spaces for passive and active recreation;
- 5) the South End Branch Library's courtyard be redesigned by the City of Boston's Public Facilities Department for greater visual access and safety. The redesign should include removal of the brick columns and upgrading of the courtyard to permit its use for library-related children's activities and passive recreation;
- 6) the BRA, in consultation with management and tenants, analyze existing conditions of the interior courtyards and recreational spaces within the Castle Square Development and develop a plan for the gradual upgrading of the exterior environment;
- 7) the BRA, in cooperation with the Methunion Manor Court, explore the possibility of creating a summer spray water feature for small children in the currently underutilized passive park next to Methunion at Pembroke and Columbus;
- 8) the Boston Parks and Recreation Department explore, with Back Bay Aging Concerns United, the Franklin Square House, and the developers of RC-9, the advisability of restoring the South End Burial Ground as a site of historic significance and for its potential as a passive recreational resource;
- 9) the Parks and Recreation Department upgrade Waltham Square, adjacent to St. Helena's, and improve access for senior and handicapped residents of the area through construction of a ramp.

Capital improvements are also associated with recommendations for zoning and designation of the South End/Lower Roxbury's existing community gardens, a tot lot and small passive park, all now unprotected and in need of redesign and upgrading.

Programming and Maintenance Recommendations

Boston Urban Gardeners recommends that:

- 1) the Boston Parks and Recreation Department make every effort to achieve optimum use of existing open space resources through improved routine maintenance of its facilities, with particular emphasis on the South End/Lower Roxbury's tot lots and playgrounds;
- 2) the Boston Parks and Recreation Department make every effort to provide regular staffing and programming at the large multi-use playgrounds which serve youth at risk, particularly Carter, Peters, Ramsey and O'Day Playgrounds. This is already planned, within budget constraints;
- 3) Blackstone and Franklin Squares, perhaps in combination with the South End Burial Ground, would benefit greatly from the presence of a park ranger to provide historical interpretation and recreational supervision to a broader range of residents (smaller children, older seniors) than now feel comfortable using these important South End open space resources;
- 4) the MBTA, perhaps in conjunction with the MDC and Boston Parks And Recreation Department, publicize the new Orange Line's improved access to many of the city's prime parklands (Franklin Park, Arnold Arboretum, the Southwest Corridor Parkland) for South End/Lower Roxbury residents (and other residents who live along the Orange Line) in the multiplicity of languages appropriate for the area;
- 5) semi-public courtyards and tot lots at large multi-family public and subsidized housing developments be reviewed by management staff for safety and accessibility. The Boston Police Department must assist management in ensuring that these and other play areas (including school yards) are not abused by drug traffickers.

For detailed recommendations, see Recommendations by Census Tract.

Chapter Summaries

Environmental Character

The South End is one of Boston's most densely populated neighborhoods, but has one of its lowest open space/population ratios. The vast majority of South End residents do not have access to private yards or private recreational resources and depend upon nearby public open spaces.

The South End lacks a natural topography as well as the natural borders -- waterfront or substantial green areas -- which mitigate urban densities in most other Boston neighborhoods.

While the South End contains a relatively small amount of public open space, much of it is based on the original Victorian pattern of parks and squares, and subsequent high quality planning and landscaping. The neighborhood also contains one of the finest playgrounds in the city and several exemplary pocket parks and community gardens.

Some parts of the South End are well served by existing open space resources. Others are severely underserved. Future open space development should rectify these inequalities to the greatest possible extent and also be consistent with the South End's historic layout. It should also reflect the multi-generational, multi-cultural character of the community.

The Historical Context

While the South end contains some of Boston's few remaining early 19th century open spaces and a nationally renowned Victorian layout, it was not planned for high residential densities. Designed before the great "Parks Movement" of the mid-to-late 19th century, it lacks the large-scale open space resources of many other Boston neighborhoods. However, the South End did benefit from the early 20th-century "Playground Movement" and from open space development during and after the urban renewal era of the 1960's and 1970's.

Open Space and Urban Renewal

Some pre-urban-renewal-plan studies called for substantial amounts of additional public open space (on the order of 70 acres total for a projected population of 30,000, or 2.33 acres/1,000 people). The actual Urban Renewal Plan of 1965 projected a more moderate increase. This included a number of new and upgraded schoolyards which, after the baby bust of the early 1970's, were seen as unnecessary.

In general, during implementation of the urban renewal plan, proposed open space initiatives were, for a variety of reasons, downscaled or eliminated. While more housing units than originally planned have been built, less open space than proposed has been developed. This has in general been consistent with the community's sense of its own priorities, and reflects a concern for individuals and families who were displaced or "priced out" of the South End. However, despite preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement in 1979 as part of the Financial Settlement of the South End's Urban Renewal Project, there was little analysis of future densities or quality of life issues.

This analysis is critical now to ensure a high quality of life to those residents of the South End who also depend upon access to affordable housing.

The Future Development Context

During the period in which the final South End parcels are developed, other development within and at the edges of the South End will be taking place. A brief analysis of anticipated plans -- scattered-site development in the South End, expansion of the Prudential Center, development of Parcel 18, South Bay, the Turnpike Air Rights and the Crosstown Industrial Park -- concludes that most new development will not significantly contribute to the South End's open space inventory (with the possible exceptions of the Turnpike Air Rights and South Bay).

The Issue of Standards

The use of open space planning standards is complex and controversial. A review of past and contemporary public open space standards applied to the South End shows a range from .95 acres/1000 persons to 10 acres/1000 persons. After analysis, the conclusion is drawn that the 1.6 to 2.5 acres/1000 population open space standard used in the South End Density Impact Study (BRA, January, 1987) provides the most useful framework for discussion.

Ideally, given its demographics, density and environmental characteristics, the South End should fall in the middle of this range, at 1.8 to 2.2 acres/1000 population for a total of 62 acres of public open space by the year 2000 (based on a BRA-projected population range of 30,400 - 33,000). This would imply a current deficit of 22.5 acres. However, in order to accomplish this, other priorities of the community (housing, parking, and commercial development) would have to be sacrificed to an unacceptable degree.

The point is made that to retain the current level of public open space amenity with a rising population, 9 acres should be added by the year 2000. However, the current level is slightly less than 1.5 acres/1000 and the community consensus indicates a desire for slightly more than current levels.

The section concludes with the recommendation that at least the minimum standard of 1.6 acres/1000 population be applied to the projected 30,400-33,000 population of the South End, reflecting a goal of 10-13 additional acres by the year 2000.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTER

The South End, Boston's smallest Neighborhood Planning District, is hardly larger than one square mile. With approximately 27,000 residents¹, it is also one of the densest, with 43.2 persons per acre.²

Unlike most of Boston's neighborhoods, the South End has no natural topography, having been developed primarily on filled, flat land. Its original waterfront edges to the east and west have long since disappeared. It is now an essentially land-locked neighborhood without the substantial waterfront or green edges which define almost every other Boston neighborhood and mitigate -- at least visually -- the effects of high densities.³

The South End's density is derived from its housing stock, which consists primarily of subdivided Victorian row houses, new multiple-family townhouses and large multi-family apartment buildings. Most of the South End's high rise buildings provide homes to low and moderate income senior citizens.

While the South End's density is high compared to other Boston neighborhoods, it is actually much lower than in the past. In 1960, at its zenith, the South End's population was 60,000, with 96 persons per acre. The actual decrease in density reflects the loss or conversion of the neighborhood's single-room-occupancy housing stock (rooming houses) to family or unrelated-person households.

The South End also has one of the highest renter-to-homeowner ratios in the city. More than 85% of its residents rent. Given its multi-family housing stock, this means that relatively few households have access to backyards or roof decks as private-access open space; if it exists in a usable form, it is often reserved for the homeowner or for a luxury apartment.

In addition, relatively few persons in the South End have access to a car (only 39% in 1985 according to the BRA). Moreover, more than one-third of South End families were living in poverty in 1984. These facts, combined with the South End's high density and

¹ According to the 1980 Census. See "Methodology" for explanation.

² According to the 1980 census, only Back Bay-Beacon Hill, with 44.6 persons per acre was more dense. (Chinatown and the North End are undoubtedly more dense than either, but their populations are included in the Downtown-Central Planning District and are therefore dispersed.) These two planning districts, the South End and Back Bay-Beacon Hill, the two smallest in the city, are also similar in size, with 627 and 677 acres and 27,000 and 30,000 residents in 1980 respectively. They are, however, dissimilar in terms of open space acreage. Back Bay-Beacon Hill is bordered on one side by the Charles River and the Esplanade, on another by the Common and Public Garden, it is bisected by Commonwealth Avenue Mall, and defined in part by Copley Square, smaller squares, and plazas. Together, these provide more than 5 acres of public open space per 1,000 residents, compared to 1.5 acres/1,000 residents in the South End. While Back Bay-Beacon Hill's open spaces are in large part shared on a daily basis by workers, tourists and residents of other neighborhoods and the neighborhood contains little industrial development, the comparison of Back Bay-Beacon Hill with the South End is nevertheless instructive.

³ Many of Boston's low and moderate-income neighborhoods -- East Boston, South Boston, Charlestown, the North End, Jamaica Plain, Brighton, parts of Roxbury and Dorchester -- share the quality of having a natural boundary which reduces the sense of enclosure and density. In many cases, these natural borders have been developed as beaches, parks and recreational areas.

multi-family housing, indicate that a majority of South End households depend almost entirely on nearby public open space for relaxation and recreation.

However, the South End contains one of the lowest open space/population ratios in the city, with approximately 1.5 acres per 1,000 residents since 1970. While some new open spaces, such as the Southwest Corridor Parkland, have been developed since 1970, population growth has kept pace, and the open space/population ratio has remained constant.

To an impressive degree, despite its high density and low open space/ population ratio, the neighborhood's original plan and recent street tree plantings have made the South End a highly liveable neighborhood with a generally "green" countenance. With the addition of residents who appreciate urban densities and outdoor lifestyles, the South End as a community has made the best of less than ideal circumstance.

One of the most "planned" neighborhoods in Boston, both historically and in recent times, the South End enjoys a relatively unique environmental character.

Planned around a series of small residential parks and squares, the South End contains some of Boston's oldest and most memorable public open spaces: Blackstone and Franklin Squares, Union Park, Frederick Douglass Square. Many of these spaces were improved and replanted as part of the urban renewal plan.

While large-scale spaces were not considered necessary during the neighborhood's initial phase of development, its Victorian row houses with uniform setbacks encourage landscaping in the neighborhood's small front yards. The resulting long front stoops also serve as informal open space, a kind of urban porch system. Back alleys set between long, narrow backyards are often covered by a mature tree canopy. The backyards themselves, once used for laundry and spent coal, are now the sites of private gardens, decks and mature trees as well as parking spaces.

With the maturation of street trees planted during and since urban renewal on side streets and major thoroughfares, the South End's landscape increasingly reflects its Victorian origins. The major streets all comfortably combine residential with commercial uses.

In addition, the South End contains some of Boston's most well-used playgrounds and ballfields, most notably the Lester J. Rotch and William E. Carter Playgrounds. The newer multi-use playgrounds, Peters and Ramsey (Derby) Park, have been less successful.

The urban renewal era also saw the creation of a number of smaller playlots, squares and vest-pocket parks, many of which add visual relief and recreational variety to the neighborhood. One of these, Plaza Betances at IBA, is a model of functional cultural expression and celebration.

Community gardens distributed throughout the neighborhood add a more changing, intimate variety of open space to the South End, reflecting in their multiple plots the diverse backgrounds and age-old cultural traditions of many South End residents.

Finally, the new Southwest Corridor Parkland has added a green edge to the community and new varieties of open space. Taken together, these amenities provide the community with a multi-dimensional environmental character, one which presents a generally attractive, lively face.

However, not all parts of the South End are equally well served. Many blocks, especially blocks containing public and subsidized housing developments, retain a barren, one-dimensional environmental quality, despite urban renewal-era street improvements. These parts of the neighborhood are also underserved by public open space and recreational facilities -- green grassy areas and tot lots. Some of the newer playgrounds built nearby are failing to provide much-needed safe and functional recreational opportunities.

In general, the environmental character of the South End today is deceptively open, reflecting a large number of undesignated community gardens and still-vacant development parcels. As the final stages of development occur, care must be taken to build into the South End an open space system which reflects both its historic origins and the current needs and cultural traditions of its residents.

AN HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF OPEN SPACE IN THE SOUTH END

When the South End was conceived by Charles Bulfinch in 1801, formal competitive sports had not yet been invented, the population of the entire city of Boston was hardly more than 25,000, and Boston would never be more homogeneous or more "Brahmin." The proposed new neighborhood to the south of old Boston was little more than an isthmus bounded on the west by the mud flats of the Back Bay and to the east by the waters of South Cove and South Bay.

Bulfinch, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, had recently redesigned the Boston Common and completed the gleaming gold-topped Massachusetts State House. There was a sense in post-revolutionary Boston that the town would soon outgrow its old boundaries. As a development boom took hold in the pastures surrounding the new State House on Beacon Hill, the spit of land connecting old Boston with the still-rural Roxbury township took on new promise.

The new neighborhood was to be laid out in a rectangular pattern, with a large oval grass plot (Columbia Square) defining the center, bisected by Washington Street. But despite Bulfinch's best efforts and the tripling of old Boston's population, it was determined by 1811 that there was no market for the new 50-acre neighborhood. Old Boston simply grew more dense.



The Neck from J.G. Hales map of 1814

Not until the 1850's would this section of Boston be developed. The new South End planners borrowed heavily from the vocabulary of Bulfinch's earlier designs for the Tontine Crescent, and the later, English-park inspired Louisburg Square. The South End was organized around the original plan for Columbia Park, now called Blackstone and Franklin Squares, and a series of other residential squares based on the English park model: Union Park, Chester Park (originally designed as an oval park containing a large fountain in its center), and Worcester, Concord, Waltham and Rutland Squares.

As originally conceived, the South End was to have been a neighborhood of townhouses belonging to wealthy merchants and literati who, presumably, would also have had access to correspondingly impressive country or summer places in the nearby rural towns of Roxbury, Dorchester, and Jamaica Plain. The new neighborhood, blessed with the latest in sanitary amenities, did not benefit from the urgent concern for public health then directed at the crowded conditions of the North and West Ends in the 1860's, which finally led to the creation of Boston's Parks Movement and the Emerald Necklace in the 1870's. Large public open spaces were not a high priority for the new South End.

This lack of concern was, of course, misplaced. The Back Bay, which did contain ample open spaces, drew away prospective upper middle income homeowners. By 1885 a majority of the neighborhood's townhouses had been converted to rooming houses. By the turn of the century, the South End was one of the most densely populated, ethnically diverse and culturally rich sections of Boston. The South End served as the city's most welcoming port-of-entry to more than 35 distinct linguistic groups, but still contained only the original decorative squares and parks to offer respite to crowded residents. At the same time, Roxbury and Dorchester were fast becoming "streetcar suburbs," and were losing their identities as nearby rural retreats for South End and old Boston residents.

By 1925 the South End contained not only all of its original passive parks and squares (approximately seven acres total), but also the William E. Carter Playground (five acres), and the Lester J. Rotch Playground (2.80 acres), having benefitted from the early 20th century "playground movement." Directly to the south lay Madison Park (2.80 acres).

By the 1940's, the South End's population had grown to almost 60,000 (96 people per acre). The O'Day Playground was conceived and built as a model of contemporary playlot design and construction, but this was not nearly enough to keep up with burgeoning demand for active and passive open space. As the post-war population of the South End developed new options--with inexpensive mortgages on new housing in the suburbs--old time residents began to move out.

In 1962, even though the South End's population had shrunk by almost half to 35,000 following the post-World War II suburban exodus, a report to the Boston Redevelopment Authority stated:

Open space in the South End is at a premium. Two parks facing each other on Washington Street, two large parks lying in industrial areas, and two small playgrounds (one new) and a number of small tot-lots make up the total open space resources for this community of 35,000 people. (A Preliminary Plan for Urban Renewal, 1962.)

The neighborhood's density at this point was 56 people per acre.

Another study had concluded: "The South End needs at least 50 acres more of open space of usable nature than it now has." (The Urban Renewal of the South End, a report to the Boston Planning Board, the Boston Redevelopment Authority, and the Boston Urban Renewal Coordinator). The report, submitted in 1958 by Van Ness Bates Associated, Planning and Research Consultants, stated:

Central South End will continue to be predominantly residential and will contain a population of mixed character and moderate or lower income economic range of perhaps 30,000 people.

Such a population should have, according to accepted minimum national standards, some 75 acres of usable open space. Central South End contains less than 10 such acres at the present time.

The density of Central South End per habitable acre is nearly twice that of the adjacent Back Bay and Roxbury districts, and is substantially excessive by any standard of residential land use.

The M.I.T. research studies of 1945 which asserted that the South End needed at least 50 acres more of recreational space, and the City Planning Board's allocation of a playfield area to the South End in its 1950 Preliminary General Report are both understandably substantiated by the present studies.

When, in 1965, the final Urban Renewal Plan was drawn up and agreed to by all parties, the South End Urban Renewal Area contained approximately 18.5 acres of public open space: 7 acres of parks and squares original to the South End's development in the 19th Century; 8.7 acres of playgrounds, including O'Day, Carter, and Rotch; 1.8 acres of tot lots, which then numbered ten, and several paved schoolyards. The Preliminary Plan for Urban Renewal, had stated: "In summary, the South End is extremely deficient in play and open space. The playgrounds are poorly located and tot lots are far too small and generally in a poor state of maintenance."

By 1979 at the closeout of Urban Renewal, approximately 15.5 acres of formally designated squares, median strips, traffic islands, parks and tot lots had been added to the South End's public open space inventory, the largest additions being the six-acre Derby (now Ramsay) Park in Lower Roxbury, the 3.22-acre New Rotch (or Peters) Park at Washington and East Berkeley Streets, and Titus Sparrow Park at West Newton Street. Approximately 3.7 additional acres of open space had been created by the establishment of 12 community gardens on long-neglected vacant lots.

By 1983, new street trees planted during the urban renewal era, and later, with assistance by the Urban Mass Transit Authority, had begun to mature, softening and shading the South End's residential blocks and commercial thoroughfares. The Southwest Corridor added 6.2 acres of parkland to the South End with its completion in 1987.

By 1987, then, the South End Urban Renewal District contained almost 40 acres of designated public open space and approximately four acres of undesignated community gardens and small parks. However, recent planning studies such as the BRA's 1987 "South End Density Impact Study and Zoning Recommendations" (by Thomas Planning Services, Inc.) continue to warn that the South End's open space resources are insufficient (see section on "Standards").

OPEN SPACE AND THE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN

Despite early urban renewal-era studies of the South End which called for substantial amounts of new active and passive open space acreage (on the order of 50-65 additional acres for a total of 60-75 acres), the 1965 Urban Renewal Plan projected a more moderate increase: three large new playgrounds -- Derby, with a community recreation center on site, the "New Rotch" or Peters Park, and a playground next to the Boston Center for the Arts Complex; expansion of school playground facilities for the Mackey School; a number of small "vest pocket" parks and tot lots; and linear parks along Berkeley Street, Columbus Avenue, Warren Avenue, and Tremont Street.

The color-coded planning map developed for the South End Urban Renewal Plan also shows four new schools with large adjacent playgrounds: the new Carter School and playground; the new Blackstone School and playground (which was also to have incorporated a large paved public square and recreation area); a new elementary school and large playground on the "Frankie O'Day Block," which would have consumed the adjacent portion of Appleton Street; and a new elementary school and small playground adjacent to and in addition to what is now Peter's Park.

The renovated Boston City Hospital complex and the essentially new Boston University Medical Center complex are shown to be surrounded and penetrated by green, campus-like settings, forming part of a park-like edge for Harrison Avenue from Northampton Street to the far side of Cathedral Public Housing Development. Early planners were concerned with the density and lack of open space in and around Cathedral and saw urban renewal as an opportunity to create a greener setting for the public housing development. Cathedral High School, too, is shown in a park-like superblock containing a public recreation center along the green-edged Harrison Avenue, which intersects the proposed Berkeley Street linear park.

By the time the 1971 Urban Renewal Map was drawn up, however, many of these originally planned open spaces had disappeared or had been down scaled. In almost every instance during implementation (aside from the construction of Peters, Derby, Sparrow, Taylor, and Hayes Parks and the upgrading of Carter Playground), the intended "greening" of the South End was down scaled. While Plaza Betances, Harriet Tubman Square, and several new tot lots were developed, the scope of proposed open-space improvements suffered a variety of fates. According to the 1979 South End Urban Renewal Financial Settlement Environmental Impact Statement:

Early planning included upgrading of the existing playground facilities. All playground construction and reconstruction projects applied for under the urban renewal plan such as the Mackey School, Bancroft and Rice Schools, Bates School and Williams School playgrounds, were turned down by the HUD. Playgrounds are termed supporting facilities by HUD and are therefore the responsibility of the City. However, several of the proposed playgrounds and playground improvements which HUD did not approve were completed by the BRA with other funds.

In the original plan, parcels P6b (the Harry the Greek Block), P-6a (the East Berkeley Victory Gardens), and P-16 (Cathedral Park), were slated to be cleared of buildings and developed for park space. P6a and P6b were to be open space bordering the widened East Berkeley Street. P-16 was to be the playground for the Blackstone School. P6a was cleared of residential structures but P6b and P16 were not cleared. Plans were dropped to widen East Berkeley. These three parcels are considered major parcels for later analysis in the study. Alternatives being studied for P6a are victory gardens and new residential; for

P6b, rehabilitated commercial and housing; for P-16, new commercial use combined with new IBA housing and the continuation of existing uses without BRA development.

Another early plan which has been substantially amended was the proposed linear park treatment to Columbus Avenue, Tremont Street, Washington Street and Warren Avenue. The proposed improvements on Columbus, Tremont and Warren have been scaled back to widening of the sidewalks, the redesign of intersections, and landscaping as part of an Urban Systems Grant. The proposed park at the intersection of Appleton and Columbus will not be developed by means of urban renewal, but as a landscape feature of the Columbus Avenue reconstruction mentioned above. The proposed treatment of Washington Street is being used as part of the Orange Line replacement service study.

Of the proposed Mackey School Playground Expansion:

HUD disapproved because the playgrounds are deemed supporting facilities and therefore the responsibility of the School Fund Budget. Project is not now programmed, and parcel is being considered for deletion from the plan. [This parcel is currently being developed.]

Of the New Carter Playground:

The School is not scheduled for construction. If it is built, the playgrounds will be developed by the Boston Public Facilities Department with school construction funds on parcels 15 and 16. [This parcel is now being developed as Frederick Douglass Plaza].

Of course, much of this down-scaling, especially of schoolyards, seems reasonable. The baby boom, which had stretched into the early 1960's and the beginning of the urban renewal era, went bust. Too many of the early plans would have required additional demolition, and by the 1970's housing advocates and preservationists were able to prevent thoughtless trade-offs -- the Clarendon Street Baptist Church for a playground, the Harry the Greek Block for a link in a linear park.

However, the net effect of eliminating schoolyards and other "open" parcels from the plan, noted without much environmental impact analysis in the 1979 South End Environmental Impact Statement, was to reduce overall the amount of open space potentially available to residents. At the same time, development was increasing residential and commercial densities and the need for parking spaces, with perhaps unforeseen results.

According to the BRA's 1979 District Profile and Proposed 1979-1981 Neighborhood Improvement Program, prepared concurrently with the South End Urban Renewal Close Out EIS, the original South End Urban Renewal Plan "had recommended a total of 3,100 low and moderate income new housing units. The BRA and the City of Boston... [had] met and even surpassed this goal by having been responsible for more than 4,400 low/moderate income units, including 939 units designed especially for senior citizens." Also being prepared concurrently, the City of Boston's Five-Year Open Space Plan, applying the National Recreation and Park standard of 10 acres/1000 to the South End, was declaring in its report to the Commonwealth that the South End was deficient in its open space acreage by approximately 266 acres (!).

While the City's creation of more affordable housing units than originally projected should be applauded, and the proposal for 266 acres of additional open space rejected, these 1979 statistics, taken together, do indicate that the EIS did not sufficiently analyze the removal of proposed open space and schoolyard parcels from the plan before making its recommendations.

The only major formal adjustments in favor of open space from the original plan was the construction of Titus Sparrow Park on land previously reserved for public housing and a 1976 BRA Transportation Plan proposal to narrow Msr. Reynolds Way and create green-space on the Cathedral Public Housing Development side. To some extent, however, the former could be seen as a substitute for the never-built proposed playground expansion for the Mackey School and the proposed but unbuilt large open space adjacent to the Boston Center for the Arts (as per the first official map of the proposed Urban Renewal Plan of 1965) on land which now houses the Boston Ballet School. The second adjustment--in favor of a green edge to the densely populated Cathedral Housing Development--is now being requested by the Archdiocese as new greenspace adjacent to the Cathedral itself.

The Southwest Corridor can, in the same sense, be seen to some extent as a substitute for the proposed but unbuilt linear park along Columbus Avenue (although clearly the larger Southwest Corridor Park provides amenities and opportunities never dreamed of for Columbus Avenue). Plaza Betances can be seen as a substitute for the wide pedestrian plaza originally planned adjacent to Blackstone School.

The 1979 South End Environmental Impact Statement did mention a new form of open space that had surfaced on some of the still-vacant reuse parcels in the mid-1970s:

Although never an objective of the plan, the victory gardens which have sprung up on various parcels which have been cleared by the urban renewal process have become institutionalized uses of open space. The future of these urban farm plots has been taken into account during the close-out process, in order to identify which gardens could become permanent open space and which may be only interim uses.

However, the Environmental Impact Statement did not evaluate in any detail the impact of the use of these self-selected open space parcels or what their loss would mean, despite the down-scaling or development of other parcels originally proposed as open space. The EIS also did not evaluate many of the BRA's smaller development parcels. In its final recommendations, the 1979 Environmental Impact Statement concluded:

The preferred alternatives would add one new park, on the Infill Housing site at RE-7, and result in some additional recreational space being added to the Carter Playground, from the Existing Carter School Site. Open space along Washington Street, possibly only an interim use, would be added as part of the MacDonald Warehouse development. If the preferred alternatives are developed at the maximum practical levels as described in the feasibility study and not at the legal maximums, any additional developed open space will be provided as setbacks, landscaping and parking for new or rehabilitated housing for commercial and industrial uses. The small increase in residential and employment population resulting from this new development will not significantly affect the use patterns or demands on the existing park facilities.

The implementation of the preferred alternatives on major parcels would eliminate small gardens on Parcels 30, 4, and PB-4, and a portion of a victory garden on P-6a. However, agreements between gardeners and future developers could permit the maintenance of the smaller gardens as part of the open space or landscaping adjacent to these new uses. In addition some of the minor parcels under study may become available to neighborhood associations for the establishment of new gardens, as part of the BRA's policy for disposition of minor parcels.

Other open-space alternatives for major parcels which have been rejected as preferred alternatives are the planned playground at Mackey School on PB-1, which will remain along with the church and existing residential buildings; the athletic field proposed on 32C, located across from the recently built Peter's Park; and the park proposed for RE-2B, housing infill site.

The only major new open space proposed in the 1970 Environmental Impact Statement was a park on the former infill-housing site (RE-7) at Shawmut, West Springfield, and Worcester Streets, proposed for a time as "Lincoln Place." This parcel is currently planned as the site of 81 units of housing, with a proposed one-third of the site remaining as open space. The 1979 report also proposed that one-half to two-thirds of the Berkeley Street Garden, originally proposed as a linear park next to a widened street, be preserved as open space. The first SENHI document proposed revising the open space ratio to one-third to one-half of the site.

The point of this historical analysis is not to challenge past decisions or actions but to clarify the current situation. Open space has been consistently down-scaled, from one plan to another, since the beginning of the urban renewal era. While many of these decisions in themselves were reasonable and even laudable, inadequate attention was paid to environmental consequences or to possible alternate strategies to secure open space. While the current number of units/acre is actually somewhat lower than that projected in the original plan (according to the 1987 South End Density Impact Study), the actual units have required more land mass, perhaps reflecting the community's dissatisfaction with high-rise structures and a need for more parking. This has occurred at the expense of planned public open space.

It would be a tragedy if this small neighborhood, so well studied and planned, so close to downtown and so well served by public transportation, were to unwittingly trade its future quality of life and the recreational and celebratory activities made possible by public open space for increasing numbers of parking spaces.

While public debate in the South End has often centered on housing affordability or on the creation of housing versus open space, it is likely that the real focus at present should be on housing and open space versus parking space. The conclusion of this debate will determine whether the South End will offer a high quality of life to all of its residents -- especially to low and moderate income senior citizens and families -- or whether it will cater to a more affluent, probably more transient population which can afford both private transportation and private recreation.

As the BRA and the community move forward to develop the last remaining publicly owned parcels and to "fine tune" what was once the largest urban renewal district in the nation, careful consideration and analysis must be given to trade-offs among high-and low-rise structures, residential parking requirements, commercial development and parking, and public open space.

THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

It is beyond the scope of this study to perform a detailed analysis of the impact of proposed development in and adjacent to the South End Urban Renewal Area on the open space needs and resources of South End residents. However, it should be noted that within the next decade, significant new development is planned, which, when built, will add little to and possibly strain the existing open space resources of the South End. They are:

Scattered Site Development. According to the SENHI Program's Phase I Request for Proposals document, "eighteen projects totaling over 700 units of housing are underway or soon will be; and greater than half of these units are new construction. The first phase of the SENHI program is expected to create approximately 300 units of housing." These thousand units, multiplied by Boston's average density of 2.4 persons/household, would house an additional 2,400 residents. While some open space is planned in conjunction with new SENHI development (almost an acre in Phase I), the majority would be created for the private or quasi-private use of residents. Several parcels, notably the "Gazebo Garden" (R-30), one third of the Berkeley Street Garden (P-6A), and one-third of the parcel behind 1701 Washington Street (RE-7) have been suggested as permanent public access open space, the latter having been included in the Phase I RFP. It has not yet been determined how many units or how many additional units will be proposed for the second phase of the SENHI Program, or how many additional units will be created in or on privately held parcels. The BRA's Research Department does, however, project an increase in the South End's population to more than 30,000 by the year 2000, or a density of approximately 50 persons/acre (up from 43.2 in 1980, already one of the highest in the city; see Density/Open Space Chart). The SENHI Program includes 70 parcels, of which eleven were advertised during Phase I.

Expansion of the Prudential Center. This may create internally accessible open space and recreational facilities, but will almost certainly reduce in scope the current use of its open spaces by South End residents. Conversely, residential expansion here may increase use of the Southwest Corridor Parkland and Titus Sparrow Park.

Development of Parcel 18. This may result in new internally or privately accessible health or recreational facilities but is not planned to greatly increase current residents' access to public open space or recreation. Conversely, new residents of the parcel will almost undoubtedly increase use of the adjacent Southwest Corridor Park and the nearby Carter Playground.

South Bay. Public improvements are planned in conjunction with construction of Boston's new solid waste incinerator. There has been no public indication to date of recreational planning for the area, although facilities in this area would be shared by the South End, South Boston, and Dorchester residents, and perhaps assist in blurring neighborhood "turf" boundaries.

Turnpike Air Rights. Under the BRA's proposed open space zoning amendment, 50% of transportation corridors would, if developed, be designated for open space use. This proposal could have a substantial impact on a large area of residential character which would include parts of Chinatown/South Cove, Bay Village and the South End now divided by the Turnpike. Such development, however, may have a negligible effect on the per 1,000 population availability of open space, as new residential development along or on the Turnpike air rights might, in effect, "cancel out" any increase in public open space. In addition, Chinatown/South Cove is now so severely underserved by public open space that

additional recreational facilities on the Turnpike Air Rights, at least to Berkeley Street, should probably be seen as required by Chinatown/South Cove to meet its minimum open space needs, with South Enders seen as secondary beneficiaries. However, some amount of acreage along the Turnpike Air Rights could be added to the South End's inventory.

Crosstown Industrial Park. Some industries located in the Crosstown Industrial Park have provided recreational facilities with limited public access. However, projected development in the Industrial Park area cannot be relied on to add public open space to the South End's inventory.

In summary, new, proposed and planned development at the borders of the South End Urban Renewal Area will not contribute significantly to the inventory of publicly accessible open space. On the contrary, new development may increase pressure on existing South End open space resources, actually lessening the per 1,000 population acreage available to South End residents.

THE ISSUE OF STANDARDS

In a study prepared for the Boston Redevelopment Authority in January, 1987, entitled South End Density Study and Zoning Recommendations, the consultant, Thomas Planning Services, Inc., states:

Accepted Planning Standards recommend between one and six-tenths acres and two and one-half acres of neighborhood parks for each one thousand population. The same standards suggest that neighborhood parks serve an area within one-quarter to one-half mile of the park.¹

It noted that:

applying such standards to the study area population, there should be between approximately twenty acres and forty-five and one-half acres of neighborhood parks in the study area... The four and one-half acres of open space in the study area is inadequate; at least fifteen and one-half [additional] acres are indicated as needed for the present population.²

The issue of "accepted planning standards" is complex and controversial. As recently as 1982, the City of Boston, in its "Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Action Program" report to the National Park Service (U.S. Department of the Interior), applied a 10-acre per 1000 urban population standard to each of Boston's neighborhoods, achieving in the South End an open space deficit of 238 acres (in a neighborhood which totals 627 acres).

This 10-acre/1000 population was also adopted by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council in its 1976 Regional Open Space Plan:

The National Recreational Association and the Urban Land Institute both recommend 10 acres of open space per 1,000 population... For the urban communities mentioned above [Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, and Watertown] there are five acres or less of open space per 1,000. In some neighborhoods, such as East Boston, the problem is particularly acute, with less than 3 acres per 1,000 population... It should be noted that the 10 acre per 1,000 population standard is intended as a general guide for the core area defined above. Boston, for example, uses a 5-acre per 1,000 standard.

¹The 1987 South End Density Impact Study based its standard of 1.6 to 2.5 on The Community Builder's Handbook, by J. Ross McKeever (Urban Land Institute, 1968) and the National Park Recreation and Open Space Standards, by Robert D. Buechner (National Recreation and Park Association, June 1971).

²The Density Impact Study included only nine of the South End/Lower Roxbury's thirteen census tracts (703,705,706,707,708,709,710,711, and 712) and only 18,282 of its total population of 30,000 (as first estimated for the 1985 State Census). The 1985 census figures were later disputed by the Commonwealth and revised downward. This process was and is in itself controversial. The South End Density Impact Study was based on the earlier and higher numbers. (A practical solution to the discrepancy and the current controversy might be to regard the study's conclusions as projections of future densities, as they are quite consistent with the BRA's minimum population projections for the year 2000).

The South End Density Impact Study concluded that: "Permitted density in the South End [study area] is much higher than that permitted in similar high density neighborhoods in the Boston region. Densities range from fifteen to twenty dwelling units per net acre in the communities surrounding Boston; the density in the study area is approximately thirty-four units per gross acre, or, assuming that streets, sidewalks and other public spaces consume half an acre, seventeen units per net acre. The analysis does indicate that the present density is within an acceptable range, provided that off-street parking and open space requirements can be met."

While the 5-acre per 1,000 population standard may serve as a planning guide for Boston as a whole (its application would imply an open space system of approximately 3500 acres for a population of 700,000, which is not unreasonable under current circumstances), this standard becomes close to meaningless when applied to a dense urban neighborhood such as the South End, where its application would create an unworkable deficit of approximately 119 acres. Moreover, such a standard applied by neighborhood does not take into account the fact that Boston's largest open space resource, the approximately 1,200-acre Emerald Necklace, is a regional system which transcends and even creates neighborhood boundaries.

On the other extreme of the discussion is a report by the Boston Redevelopment Authority's Planning Department in 1968, which asserted:

In order to determine appropriate measurements for the adequacy of Boston's open space acreage, many sets of standards were examined. From various sources, a composite 'typical' standard was devised for neighborhood parks, playgrounds and playfields. A second set of standards set forth in the Philadelphia Comprehensive Plan were also reviewed. It is interesting to note that the two sets of standards are similar in service areas prescribed but differ significantly in the population to be served... The Philadelphia standards are much more consistent with urban densities and land economics and are adopted by this report as suitable guidelines for Boston.

The "typical" standard cited in the report for combined playgrounds, playfields and neighborhood parks ranged from 3.25 to 4.50 acres/1,000 population. The preferred "Philadelphia" standard, by contrast, proposed a scant .95 to 1.45 acres/1,000 population total (much less than the actual open space/1,000 population in most of Boston's neighborhoods at the time).

Applying this report's purported "typical" standard to the South End's 1980 population of 27,125, the neighborhood should now contain between 87.75 and 121.50 acres of public open space; according to its "Philadelphia" standard, between 25.65 and 39.15 acres. In fact, the South End does contain approximately 40 acres of public open space today, but the Philadelphia standard compares unfavorably with open space ratios in other Boston neighborhoods and with standards in contemporary use.

An earlier approach to the issue is the only one which actually enlightens the researcher with background reasoning. Arthur Shurtleff, a prominent landscape architect in Boston in the 1920's, in a report to the Boston Parks Department, discussed the relationship between park sizes, distances to population, and use. Although this study was written in 1925, many open space planners still find Shurtleff's standards and planning concepts to be useful today.

In general, the more complete the equipment and arrangement and the more interesting the composition [of the park], the greater becomes the region from which visitors will come.

He goes on to say that if the purpose of parks and playgrounds is to accommodate long-distance visitors, it would be very simple to design parks. However,

the problem is vastly more difficult and more complicated. The needs of another group of visitors must be met. These patrons are the children, the mothers and nurses, and the young boys and girls of school age, and older persons who need parks and playgrounds for daily use throughout the whole year, and who can reach them only by walking.

Shurtleff argues that this region of use is limited by the distance to which these people are willing or able to walk. He believed that in such a city as Boston this distance is about one-quarter of a mile. In addition to the discussion of distance, Shurtleff also mentions the desirable size of parks and playgrounds, and he estimated that ten percent of a residence area is a reasonable space to devote to these uses.

According to this standard, the South End's 607 acres should contain approximately 60 acres of public open space, conveniently dispersed throughout the community in large seven-acre or so pockets of recreational activity and passive parks.

Application of a Standard

On the basis of this review of the issue of standards, we have concluded that the 1.6 to 2.5 per 1,000 population standard cited by Thomas Planning Services in the South End Density Impact Study is in fact the most reasonable.³ In supporting this standard we are not necessarily agreeing with the manner of its application or the conclusions drawn from its use in the South End Density Impact Study.

This conclusion is based not only on the literature cited above, but on a review of the population density and open space acreage of other Boston neighborhoods (see the chart: "Density by Boston's Planning Districts") and our analysis of the environmental character of the South End itself.

This 1.6-2.5 acres/1,000 people standard, applied to the South End's current (or 1980) population would suggest a desirable minimum of 43.4 acres to a maximum of 67.8 acres of public open space.

Given concomitant issues of density, income levels, general demographics, and neighborhood environmental character, the South End, in our estimation, should ideally fall within the middle range of this standard at 1.8 to 2.2 acres/1,000 or 48.8 to 59.7 acres of public open space at current population levels.

To keep pace with the South End's projected population of 30,400-33,500 by the year 2000 (BRA Research Department, July, 1987), the desirable public open space range would increase from 54.7 to 66.9 acres for the lower number and from 59.4 to 72.6 acres for the higher population.

An ideal planning goal for the South End, in the center of this range would be 62 acres of public open space by the year 2000, for a current deficit of 22.5 acres. However, in order to attain this ideal, in our opinion too many other priorities for the community (housing, parking and commercial development) would have to be sacrificed.

It is possible that in the future, opportunities such as development on the Turnpike Air Rights, a future depressed Southeast Expressway, South Bay improvements or the opening of other unforeseen parcels will present new opportunities to secure public open space for

³In agreeing with the use of this standard we are not necessarily agreeing with the manner of its application or the conclusions drawn from its use in the South End Density Impact Study.



**POPULATION SHARING: SOUTH END PLAYGROUND /
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

25

miles

0

1/4

1/2

the community. The ideal planning goal of 62 acres should therefore be kept in mind when evaluating future development proposals and plans.

Another way to approach the South End's open space needs using an acreage/1,000 population planning standard would be to try and retain current levels of open space amenity based on maximum population projections for the year 2000. This approach would suggest a total of 49.4 acres of public open space for a projected South End population of 33,000 in the year 2000, retaining almost exactly the 1970 and 1980 ratios of 1.47 and 1.48 acres of public open space/1,000 residents. This approach would result in a current deficit of 9.5 acres.

Finally, and this is the option we favor, the minimum acceptable planning standard of 1.6 acres/1,000 persons could be applied to the South End's projected population for the year 2000 in order to increase slightly the overall level of amenity. This is consistent, we believe, with the community consensus. This approach would result in a desirable goal of 48.6 to 53 acres of public open space for a population of 30,400 to 33,000. Using this approach, the current deficit would be approximately 10 to 13 acres total.



THE SOUTH END IN RELATION TO MAJOR OPEN SPACES IN
BOSTON

Population Density of Boston, by Planning Districts

Planning Districts	Total acres	1970		1980		2000 Projected		Recommendation Acres public open space/ 1000 people
		Total population	Density: (persons per acre)	Acres public open space/1000 people	Total Population	Density (persons per acre)	Acres space/1000 people	
East Boston	3,698	38,873	11	2.30	32,178	8.7		
Charlestown	1,077	15,353	14	2.19	13,364	12.4		
South Boston	2,403	38,488	16	7.42	30,396	12.6		
Central	1,034	19,334	19	1.40	21,797	21.10		
Back Bay - Beacon Hill	677	27,538	41	5.45	30,212	44.6		
South End	627	22,680	36	1.47	27,125	43.2	1.46*	1.6**
Fenway - Kenmore	966	32,965	34	3.66	30,842	31.9		
Allston - Brighton	2,901	63,657	22	3.38	65,264	22.5		
Jamaica Plain/ Mission Hill	1,960	47,767	24	9.18	39,331	20.0		
Roxbury	2,503	71,095	28	.78	57,751	23.0		
(North) Dorchester/ Uphams Corner	1,252	32,665	26	1.57	23,789	19.0		
(South) Dorchester/ Fields Corner	2,572	74,415	29	2.15	59,123	23.0		
Mattapan	1,594	45,449	29	23.41	36,827	22.5		
Roslindale	1,712	39,558	23	.48	32,626	19.0		
West Roxbury	4,252	34,989	8	2.72	31,333	7.4		
Hyde Park	2,369	34,977	15	22.04	30,223	12.7		
TOTALS	31,617	639,803	20		561,181	17.7	640,000 - 700,000	22.45

* Open space projections for the South End are calculated at 39.5 acres of formally designated public open space. This total is as of July, 1987. This does not include approximately 3.75 acres of undesignated community gardens and small parks.

** Conclusion: To avoid a real loss in the amount of public open space available to South End residents in 1970 and 1980 (approximately 1.5 acres/1,000) approximately 9 acres of public open space should be added by the year 2,000, based on the BRA's maximum population projection for the neighborhood. We recommend a slightly increased level of amenity at 1.6 acres/1,000 or 10.14 additional acres.

Source: 1970 Census of Population and Housing First Count Summary, Tabulation prepared by BRA Research Department, 1980 Tabulation and year 2,000 prepared by BRA Research Department.

CENSUS TRACT ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

The following section includes information about South End open space needs and current resources by census tract. For each census tract the following information is included:

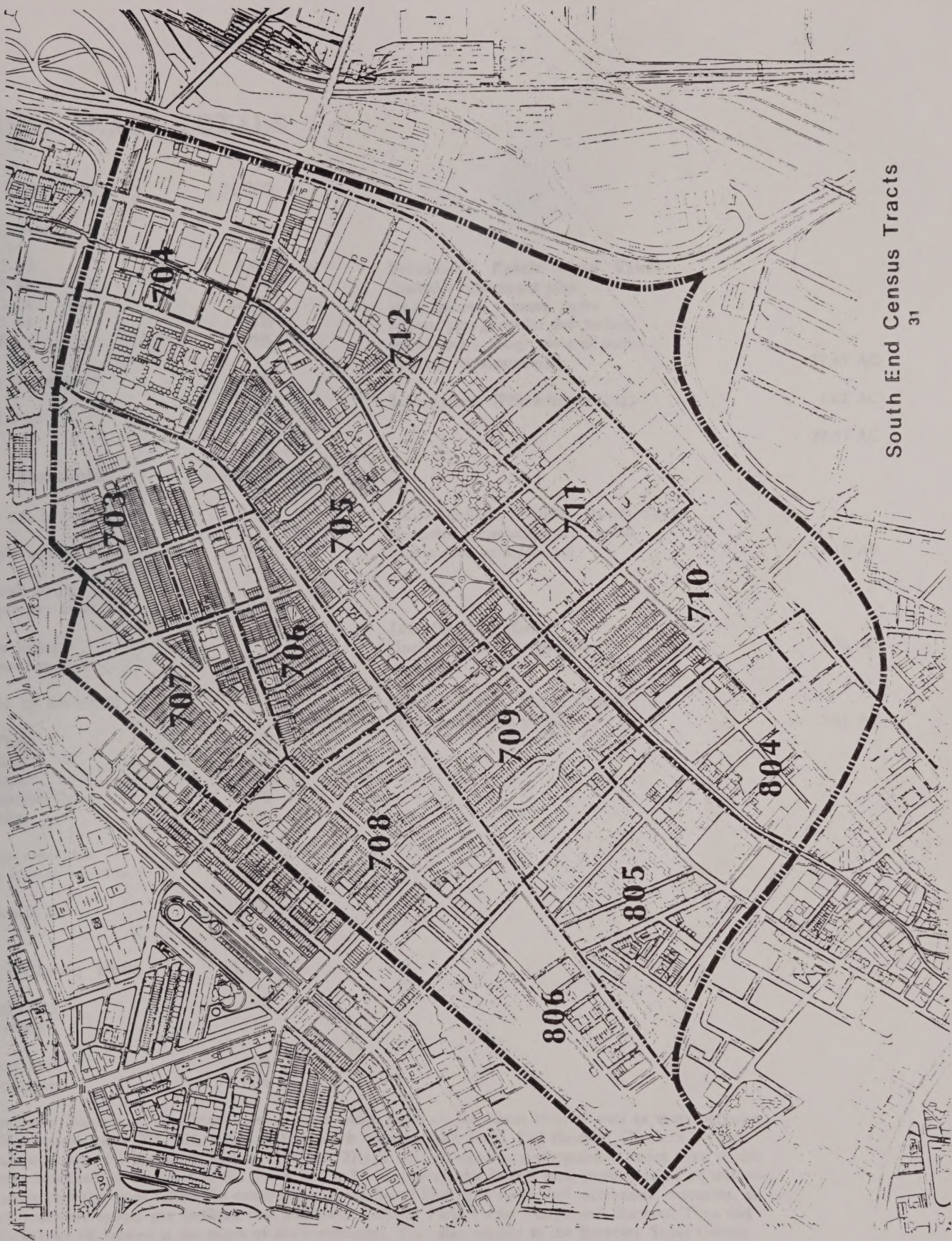
1. Census tract data relevant to open space planning considerations and total acreage of open space resources (permanently designated undesignated, interim use or semi-private).
2. A 200-scale color map delineating permanent public open space, undesignated public open space, interim-use open space and semi-private parks and courtyards.
3. Open spaces photographs (numbered and keyed to the map), with subjective summaries drawn from neighborhood surveys. Each summary includes acreage, ownership and/or maintenance and whether the subjective description is based on a consensus (C) or a range of opinions (R) from the surveys of residents and organizational representatives.
4. Recommendations for each census tract drawn from an analysis of community opinion, neighborhood population characteristics and current open space resources.

Assumptions

We have made a number of assumptions, based on conventional open space planning methodology, concerning the relationship between certain population characteristics and the need for public open space. These are:

1. Youth under the age of 19 are a "high-need" group in terms of nearby public open space. However, children under the age of 5, children between the ages of 5 and 14 and youth between the ages of 14 and 19 have different open space requirements from one another.
2. Persons over the age of 55 are a "high-need" group in terms of nearby public open space, and have requirements for ease of access, safety and range of activity which differ somewhat from those of other age groups.
3. Persons and family living in poverty are a "high-need" group, having by definition, less access to the kinds of private recreational facilities and residential amenities which can be purchased by higher income groups.
4. Persons who live in households where a language other than English is spoken at home may be more reluctant to seek recreational and open space amenities beyond the known boundaries of a neighborhood or district. This is another indicator of need for high quality open space and recreational facilities within the neighborhood.

5. Persons of color are, unfortunately, still not altogether comfortable at all of the city's beaches, parks and recreational facilities. While the situation is changing for the better, it is still a concern and indicates a need for high quality facilities throughout Boston's neighborhoods. For this reason, ethnicity by household is an indicator of need to some (hopefully lessening) extent.
6. Persons without access to a car are limited to public transportation or nearby public open space to meet their recreational and open space needs. Families with small children and senior citizens without access to a car depend particularly on nearby public open spaces to meet their needs.
7. Vacant units in a census tract give some sense of potential future densities, and are listed here for that reason.
8. Renter-occupied units often lack access to a yard or roof deck. A high percentage of renter-occupied units in a census tract indicates that a large number of persons cannot depend on private open space to meet their open space and recreational needs.



CENSUS TRACT TOTALS

Total # Persons	31,009		
0-5 years old	6.0%		
5-14	13.0%		
15-19	8.0%		
20-34	34.0%		
35-54	21.0%		
55-64	8.0%		
65+	10.0%		
Persons 19 and under	24.0%		
Persons over 55	18.0%		
Total Households	13,517		
Persons per household	2.28		
Per capita income	\$6,534		
Individuals living below poverty level	26.0%		
Families living below poverty level	25.0%		
Ethnicity by household			
White	36%		
Black	48%		
Asian	7%		
Spanish Origin	9%		
Other	0%		
Language other than English spoken at home	25%		
No access to car	45%		
Total Housing Units	15,431		
Occupied Units	87%		
Vacant Units	13%		
Owner-occupied	10%		
Renter-occupied	90%		

Permanent Public Open Space

(Includes schoolyard play areas, plazas, squares, parks, totlots, playgrounds, and totlots, plazas and seating areas in public housing developments)

37.95 AC

Schoolyards (Primarily parking)

1.62 AC

39.57 AC

Undesignated Public Open Space

(Includes community gardens and interim use parks/courts)

4.16 AC

Interim Use Only

(Includes D.P.W. right-of-way)

3.76 AC

Semi-Private Parks/Courts

(Not open to the public)

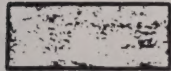
5.81 AC

This represents the total of all thirteen census tracts which make up the South End, as well as those portions of the four census tracts 703, 804, 805, and 806 which transcend the South End Planning District's borders. The total population for the South End in 1980 was 27,125, and all open space/population ratios used in this study were tabulated on the basis of the South End only. However, the 31,009 total population of all thirteen census tracts probably does reflect the catchment area for South End open space and recreational resources, as the major multi-use spaces and facilities (the Southwest Corridor Park, Carter Playground, Ramsey, Titus and Peters Parks) are all located at the edges of the community. This also applies to the Berkeley Street Garden, Rotch Playground, the ballfield at Digital, and the tot lot at United Neighbors of Lower Roxbury. In current and future planning initiatives, both population totals should be taken into account.

KEY TO OPEN SPACE MAPS



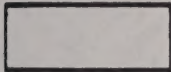
Tot Lot



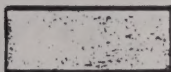
Basketball/Tennis Court



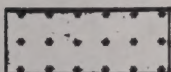
Ballfield



Spray Pool/Fountain



School Yard



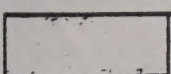
Cemetery



Park, Paved with Plantings



Community Garden



Passive Public Park



Semi-Public Square



Shared Private Open Space



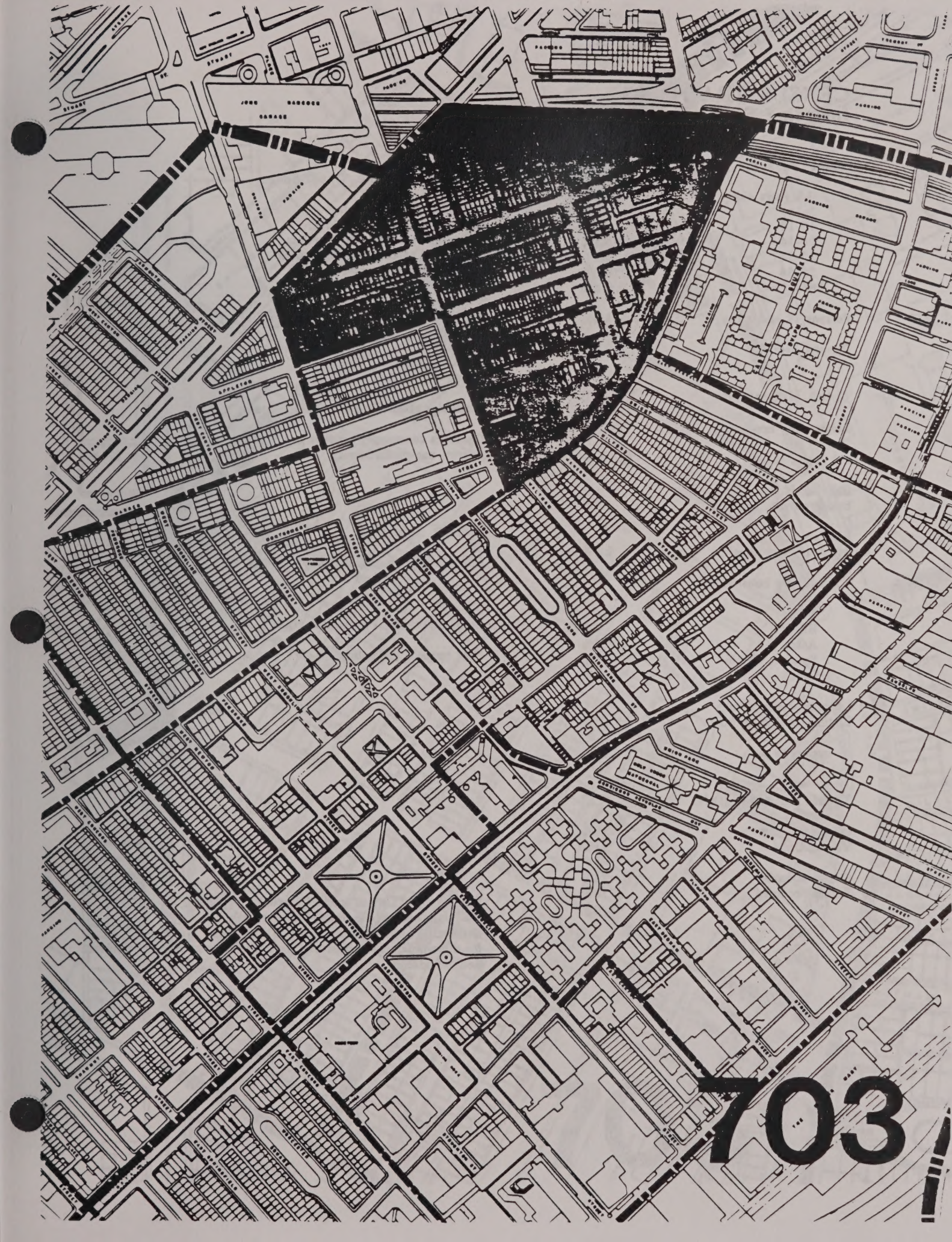
SENHI Development Parcel



BRA Owned Parcel Now Used as Open Space



D.P.W. Right-of-Way



703

CENSUS TRACT 703

Including Ellis

Total Persons 3112

0-5 years old	2.2%
5-14	3.0%
15-19	3.2%
20-34	46.4%
35-54	25.3%
55-64	10.3%
65+	9.5%

Persons 19 and under 8.4%

Persons over 55 19.8%

Total Households 1540

Persons per household 1.69

Per capita income \$14,109

Individuals living below poverty level 16.7%

Families living below poverty level 9.8%

Ethnicity by household

White	86%
Black	7%
Asian	5%
Spanish Origin	2%
Other	0%

Language other than English spoken at home 20%

No access to car 52%

Total Housing Units 1727

Occupied Units 89%

Vacant Units 11%

Owner-occupied 24%

Renter-occupied 76%

Permanent Public Open Space

(Includes schoolyard play areas, plazas, squares, parks, totlots, playgrounds, and totlots, plazas and seating areas in public housing developments)

.67 AC

Schoolyards (Primarily parking)

0.00 AC

.67 AC

Undesignated Public Open Space

(Includes community gardens and interim use parks/courts)

.27 AC

Interim Use Only

(Includes D.P.W. right-of-way)

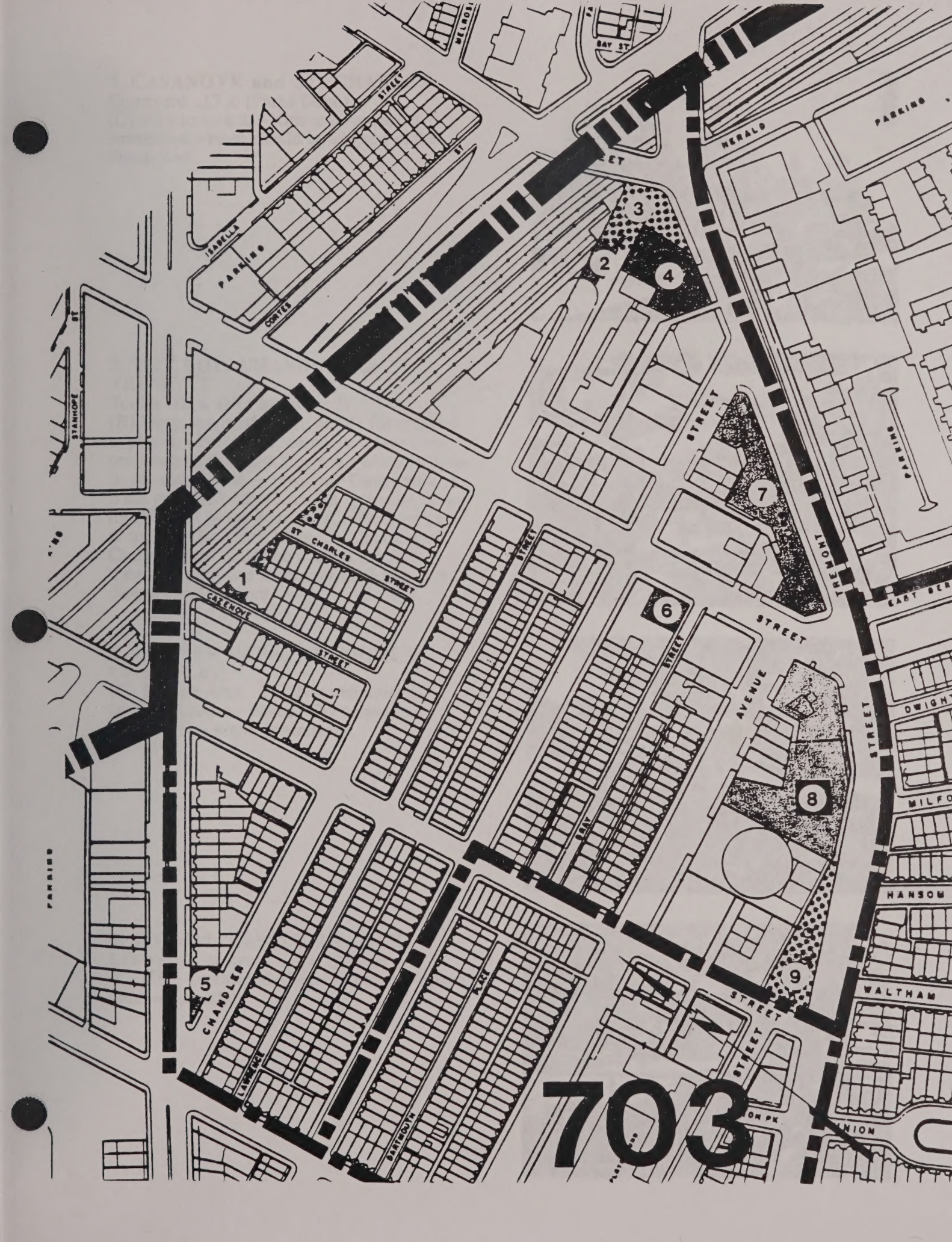
0.00 AC

Semi-Private Parks/Courts

(Not open to the public)

.98 AC

Please Note: Census tract 703 extends beyond the boundaries of the South End Planning District. The population statistics are given for the whole census tract but the open space acreage is calculated South End only.



1. CASANOVE and ST. CHARLES

Courtyard .17 a. (Parks Dept.)

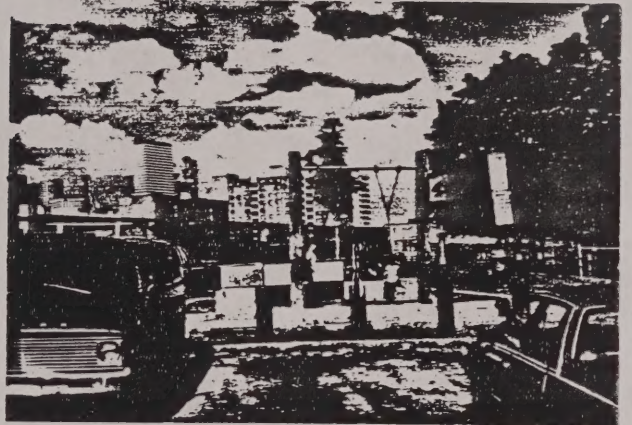
(C) Nice to look at • Nice to have such a streetscape - more should be adopted in the South End.



2. TOT LOT, CHANDLER & TREMONT

Tot lot .05 a. (Not maintained)

(R) Dirty, not used much; unsafe for children to play in • Problem of derelicts • Have been proposals to eliminate this park • Many believe its removal would be positive • Others believe it has great potential, could be "gateway to the historic part of the South End" • Real problem of truck traffic • Ellis Memorial Center and Castle Square Childcare Centers are right there, but don't use it because trucks are often illegally parked there.



3. CORNER PARK, TREMONT & CHANDLER

(C) Seating Area .2 a. (Not maintained)

In fair condition • Paved • Does have tree canopy • Not highly maintained.



4. ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE

Lawn and Courtyard .27 a. (Private)

(C) Well maintained • Visually attractive from street • Fenced in.



5. GOLDWEITZ PARK

Park .06 a. (Private)

(C) Private, locked; rarely, if ever, anyone in it • Pretty • Not for kids to play in; passive • Nice to have even if not open to the public • South End could use more such landscaped spaces • Pleasant to look at.



6. YWCA

Courtyard .08 a. (Private)

(R) Private, peaceful, well maintained, shady, used by residents • Safe because private and enclosed • Not visible from street • "Adds nothing to the community" • Make it available for community groups to use.



7. FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

Courtyard .57 a. (Private)

(C) Safe because near police station • Nice • Not open to public • Nice to see it • The fence allows visual access, at least • Not "used."



8. CHILDREN'S ART CENTER

Uncompleted Public Courtyard .27 a. (BRA)
Parcel 8

(R) "Just brick - not play area" • "Not inviting" • Occasionally community events are held there • Not aesthetically pleasing - but it is better to have an open space there than a building • It is a "throw-away" right now, an "eyesore."



9. BOSTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Plaza .25 a. (Parks Dept.)

(C) Looks good, feels safe, pretty to look at.



OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY RESIDENTS

Many mothers with children go to Clarendon and Commonwealth Avenue tot lot. They like it because it is clean, well maintained, well designed.

"Need more grass, playgrounds like one on Clarendon in South End."

Problem of vagrants using public parks.

Fear of using parks after dark.

Most "green spaces" in South End are private and locked; is this good or bad?

Big issues are parking and maintenance of the trees planted in sidewalks.

OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Ellis Memorial Center Settlement:

"Kids love to play on the Common, like green open space." Even the green strip down Commonwealth Avenue is great.

Ellis Neighborhood Association:

"A mini-Boston Common would be nice."

More green space is better for people's mental health.

"On Tree Planting Day, many people come out not to plant trees, but to say they want more open spaces."

"Capitalize on what spaces are available and appropriate" - pocket parks, landscaping, tot lots.

Existing parks must be maintained.

Lack of large green spaces; people use Common, Gardens, Esplanade.

"People take their kids out of the South End to play."

Needs large open space - try to stress recreation, yet there are so few areas or fields in South End to use.

Brooke House:

"Develop the vacant lot on Chandler & Clarendon as open space." Also take half of Cortez St. block and demolish for park; would be a nice place to sit and eat lunch.

Morgan Memorial:

Advantage of green space in the urban environment is that it allows people to experience and learn more about nature.

Census Tract 703:

This census tract appears to depend more on private open space than any other tract in the South End. Despite or because of this, there seems to be a general consensus that more passive public green areas would be appreciated and well used. (This sentiment is also consistent with the tract's demographics: Only 8.5% of the current residents are under 19 years of age, while almost 20% are over 55.)

Recommendations:

1. Given the apparent longing for a "greensward" in this census tract, BRA plans for open space development on the Turnpike Air Rights should include some measure of passive parkland.
2. The Boston Parks and Recreation Department should explore use patterns of the tot lot at Chandler and Tremont Streets to determine whether it should be removed in favor of an alternate open space use.
3. The Boston Parks and Recreation Department should improve and maintain tot lot facilities located near or adjacent to daycare centers, as the children most in need of high quality play areas are those served by daycare facilities.
4. Encourage residents to use the new Orange Line for access to Franklin Park and the Arnold Arboretum through publicity by the MBTA.

CENSUS TRACT 704

Including Castle Square

Total Persons 1821

0-5 years old	7%
5-14	16%
15-19	9%
20-34	25%
35-54	21%
55-64	10%
65+	12%

Persons 19 and under 33%

Persons over 55 22%

Total Households 602

Persons per household 3.02

Per capita income \$3,720

Individuals living below poverty level 25.6%

Families living below poverty level 24.4%

Ethnicity by household

White	20%
Black	27%
Asian	46%
Spanish Origin	4%
Other	3%

Language other than English spoken at home 69%

No access to car 60%

Total Housing Units 612

Occupied Units 98%

Vacant Units 2%

Owner-occupied 0%

Renter-occupied 100%

Permanent Public Open Space

(Includes schoolyard play areas, plazas, squares, parks, totlots, playgrounds, and totlots, plazas and seating areas in public housing developments) 1.11 AC

Schoolyards (Primarily parking) 0.00 AC

1.11 AC

Undesignated Public Open Space

(Includes community gardens and interim use parks/courts) 0.00 AC

Interim Use Only

(Includes D.P.W. right-of-way) 0.00 AC

Semi-Private Parks/Courts

(Not open to the public) .01 AC



PARKING

1

CASTLE

SQUARE

DVLPM.

SHAWMUT

SAVERFORD STREET

COBB STREET

PARKING

PARKING

PARKING

PARKING

PARKING

7100

REARVIEW DRIVE

TRAVELER

W.E. MULLINS WAY

PARKING

PARKING

PARKING

PARKING

PARKING

HARRISON

PARKING

PARKING

PARKING

BOSTON
HERALD
NEWSPAPER

PARKING

PARKING

STREET

AVENUE

ROAD

HARRISON

HUDSON

704

JOHN F. FITZGERALD

1. CASTLE SQUARE

Public Seating & Play Areas 1.11 a. (BRA with Housing Mgt.)

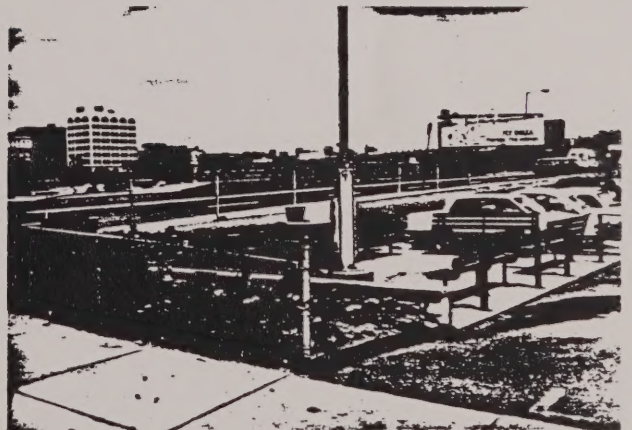
(C) Used by teenagers • Needs complete overhaul - repair equipment, fences, water fountain • Dangerous because of broken asphalt • Not as dangerous (crime, drugs) as had been, but could be improved more by lighting • Not safe at night • If improved will be great for neighborhood day care centers.



2. BOSTON HERALD

Seating Area .01 a. (Private)

(C) Who uses it? Never have seen it being used.



OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY RESIDENTS

Need more green space - plantings and benches, tot lot for kids.

Empty lot at Dartmouth and Columbus should be a park.

More housing will just add to congestion.

Police should patrol parks.

OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Castle Sq. Day Care:

Need indoor gym for winter and rainy days.

South Cove Manor Nursing Home:

Need more "traditional parks" - large trees, grass and less pavement, more benches.

Elderly have access problem getting to parks; can't get to Castle Court, traffic is a problem. South End will be like the rest of Boston if existing open space is not preserved.

Castle Sq. Association:

Possibly take down hoops at night at Castle Sq. to insure more safety and deter drug use there.

Census Tract 704:

More than 50% of the population in this census tract are in high-need groups: 33% are under the age of 19; 22% are over 55; 25% of the individuals and families are living in poverty; 60% have no access to a car. Virtually all residents in this census tract are tenants who depend on public open space for their recreational needs.

Recommendations:

1. While the interior open spaces of Castle Square appear to work well, every effort should be made by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department to increase the amount of passive and active open space available to area residents, and to upgrade, maintain and program existing facilities.
2. While there are few current opportunities for additional open space in this census tract (except for the adjacent Berkeley Street Garden), additional space may be available on the Turnpike Air Rights if 50% of it is designated as public open space under the BRA's new zoning amendment.
3. Encourage residents to use the new Orange Line for access to Franklin Park and the Arnold Arboretum through publicity by the MBTA (translated into appropriate languages).

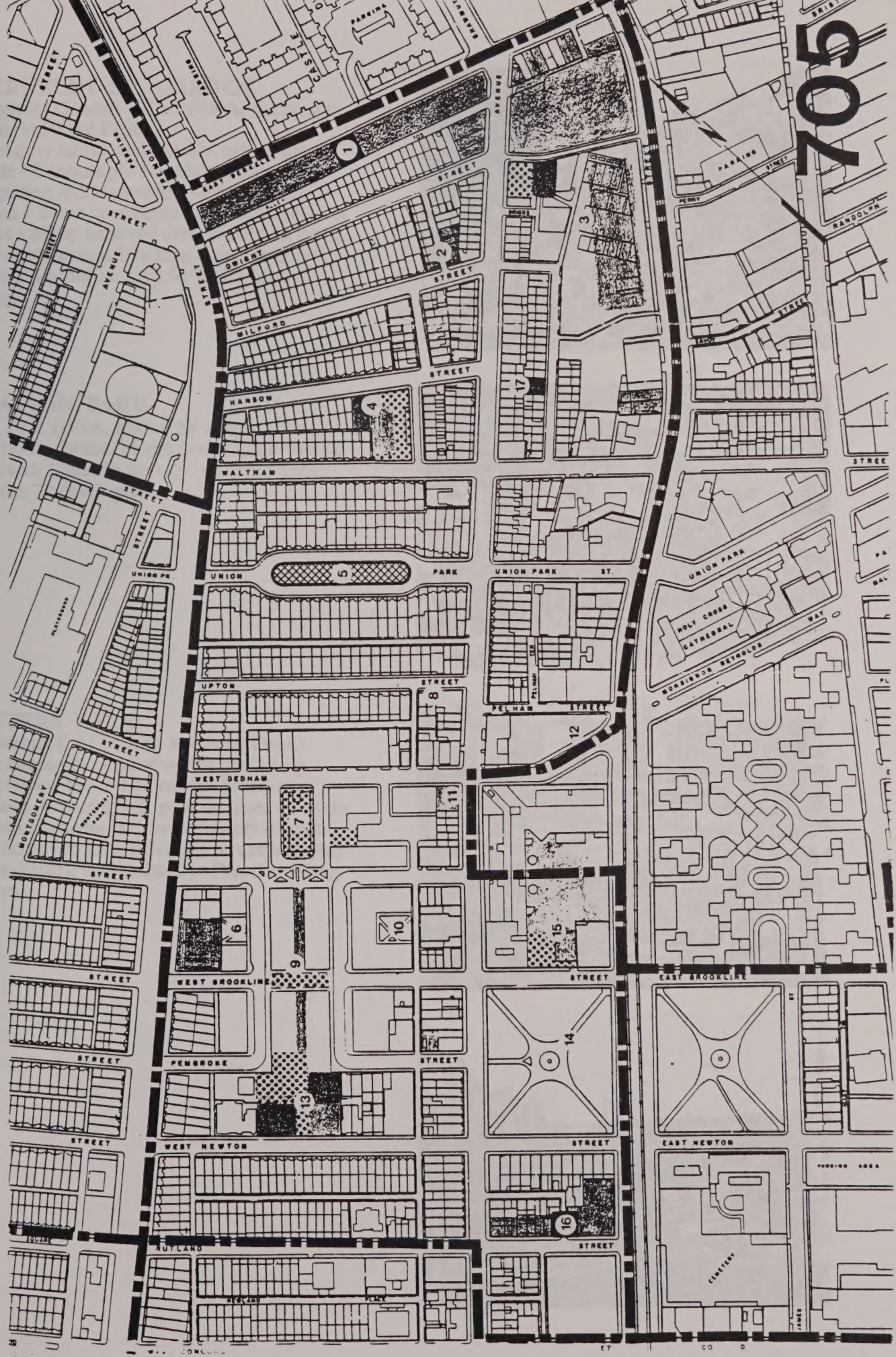


705

CENSUS TRACT 705

Including Eight Streets, IBA, Blackstone Square

Total Persons	5361		
0-5 years old	5%	Permanent Public Open Space	
5-14	11%	(Includes schoolyard play	
15-19	7%	areas, plazas, squares, parks,	
20-34	35%	totlots, playgrounds, and totlots,	
35-54	23%	plazas and seating areas in public	
55-64	9%	housing developments)	8.77 AC
65+	10%		
Persons 19 and under	23%	Schoolyards (Primarily parking)	0.00 AC
Persons over 55	19%		8.77 AC
Total Households	2173		
Persons per household	2.29	Undesignated Public Open Space	
Per capita income	\$6,825	(Includes community gardens and	
		interim use parks/courts)	1.36 AC
Individuals living			
below poverty level	22.9%	Interim Use Only	
Families living		(Includes D.P.W. right-of-way)	0.00 AC
below poverty level	22.4%		
Ethnicity by household			
White	55%	Semi-Private Parks/Courts	
Black	13%	(Not open to the public)	0.00 AC
Asian	17%		
Spanish Origin	15%		
Other	0%		
Language other than			
English spoken at home	51%		
No access to car	57%		
Total Housing Units	2,409		
Occupied Units	90%		
Vacant Units	10%		
Owner-occupied	18%		
Renter-occupied	82%		

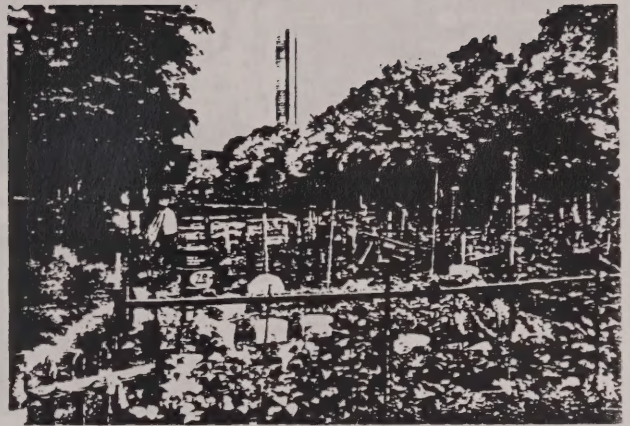


705

1. BERKELEY ST. GARDEN

Community Garden 1.1 a. (BRA, maint. by gardeners) Parcel P-6a

(R) Used by adults and elderly, primarily Chinese • Encourages neighborhood participation and interaction • Needs water supplied • Some commented on "messiness" of gardens • Many believed there should be more community gardens like this; others believed this space should be used for badly needed housing.



2. WATSON PARK

Park .10 a. (BRA, maint. by neigh. assoc.)

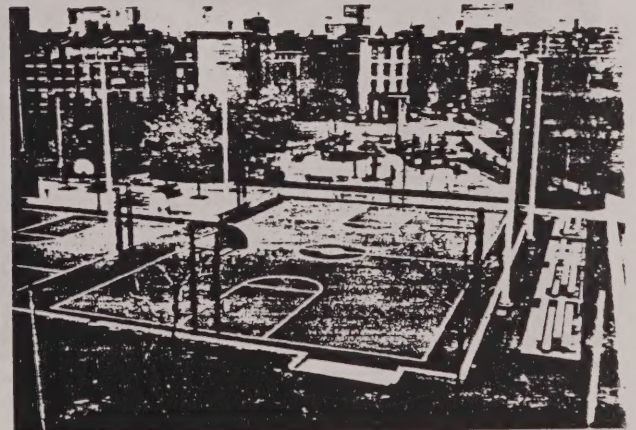
(C) Private - beautiful and inviting, but locked • Not used; "oasis in the city" • Do not need any more "locked" parks.



3. PETERS PARK

Playground, Tot Lot 2.34 a. (Parks Dept.)

(C) In desperate need of repair, including lights, tables, basketball court • Problem of homeless, broken glass, graffiti, litter • Unsafe at night • Dirtiness and lack of safety distract users; however, kids still seem to use it to play ball (basketball and baseball) • Perceived drug problem.



4. AQUADILLA ST. COURTYARD

Public Space Area 10 x 10 a.

(R) Court for basketball for kids - Some

• Court is in poor condition - many people

• Many people use it to play ball - some

• Many people use it to play ball - some

• Many people use it to play ball - some

• Many people use it to play ball - some



4. RINGOLD PLAYGROUND

Playground, Tot Lot, Seating Area

.45 a. (Parks Dept.)

(C) Uninviting because sunken • Would like to see benches and green • Used by children and teenagers • Problem of drugs • In process of being redone • Needs lights.



5. UPTON ST. PARK

Park .37 a. (Parks Dept.)

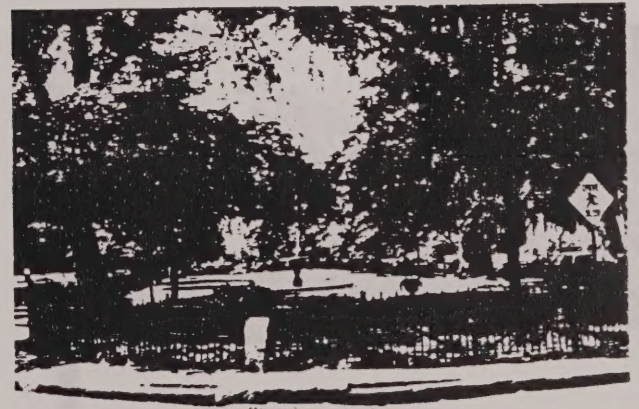
Crack, benches, trees, playground, and a



5. UNION PARK

Residential Square .33 a. (Parks Dept.)

(C) Very exclusive • Looks safe • Kept up by Union Sq. Association. Nice to walk by • South End needs more usable parks and affordable housing, but such areas do add beauty to the neighborhood.



6. AQUADILLA ST. COURTYARD

Public Seating Area .08 a. (IBA)

(C) Could use play equipment for kids • Safe • Good place for kids in area to play together • Has declined in upkeep over past few years • More and more drinking there • "Might be better if used for housing."



7. PLAZA BETANCES

Seating area .33 a. (IBA)

(C) Feels less secure than when originally opened (problem of outsiders coming in to use it) • Safe during the day, largely because of "Crime Watch" • Fairly well maintained • Used by all age groups • Good for neighborhood • Many commented on the strength of having it so well monitored, supervised • Nice to see people you know • Liked it because it is "clean and safe."



8. UPTON ST. PARK

Park .07 a. (DBA)

Grass, benches, fence. Never completed.



9. PHIL BRADLEY WAY

Crosswalks & private courtyards .61 a. (IBA)

Seating, pedestrian paths. Part of this space (formerly West Brookline St.) is considered a fire lane.



10. NEWLAND ST. COURTYARD

Courtyard .11 a. (IBA)

Public seating area.



11. UNITY TOWERS COMMUNITY GARDEN

Community Garden .06 a. (IBA Maint. by gardeners)

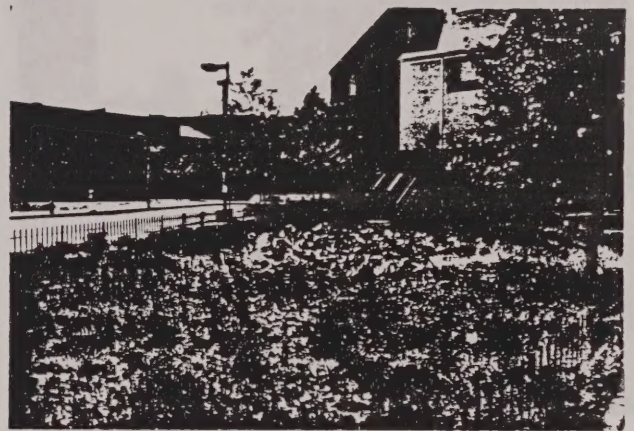
(C) Used by senior citizens, residents of Torre Unidad • Important small open space • Well used.



12. OPEN SPACE, WASHINGTON & W. DEDHAM

Lawn .24 a. (Parks Dept.)

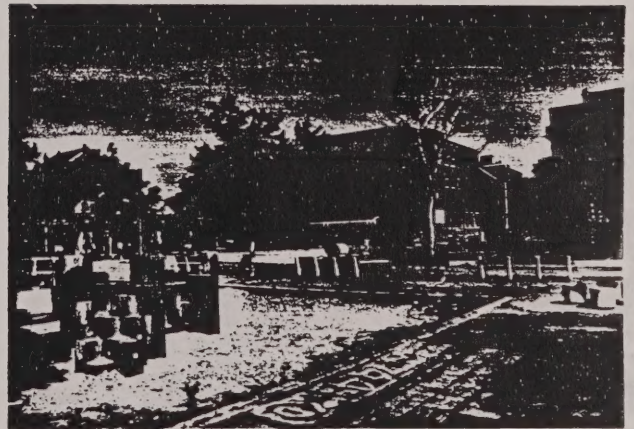
Two triangles of minimally maintained lawn • No comments; those interviewed were unfamiliar with the space.



13. O'DAY PLAYGROUND

Playground, Tot Lot .69 a. (Parks Dept.)

(C) Unsafe, dirty; drugs and drinking • In horrible condition • If such a place were upgraded and secured it would be ideal for the children in the area, who so badly need a place to play • No swings; glass in the sand.



14. BLACKSTONE SQUARE

Park 2.45 a. (Parks Dept.)

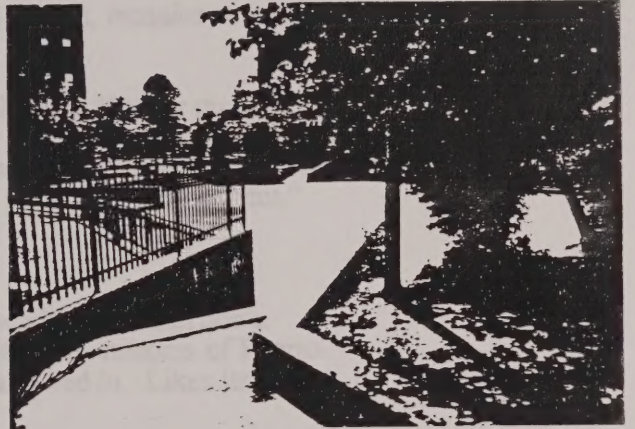
(R) Northwest side better than southeast side because senior citizens living there take care of it • Needs more "play things" • More of this type of space needed in the South End • • Very well used as a result of being maintained and promoted by the neighborhood association; in beautiful shape • Those who do use it feel hesitant, uncomfortable due to drug problem • Like the fact that it is a large grassy space with large old trees - good place to sit outdoors • Need police to walk through • Problem of homeless using benches • Not safe at night.



15. BLACKSTONE SCHOOLYARD

Playground and Seating Area .91 a.
(Public Facilities School Dept./ Community Schools)

(C) In need of repair • Fence seems to be reducing vandalism • Used by kids; however, kids interviewed there were quick to comment on their fear of playing because of all the broken glass • Dirty - not safe for the kids, although they do play there • Used by Boys Club, day care facilities • Needs equipment.



16. GAZEBO GARDEN

Community Garden .44 a. (BRA with South End Garden Project) Parcels 30, RD-60
(C) Like seeing plants and flowers; pretty to walk by • More such gardens are needed; used primarily by adults • Community very proud of it • Wonderful for elderly • Brings people together • "A real landmark in the area" • Definitely need more community garden space • Adds uniqueness to the South End; serves the neighborhood well.



17. BRADFORD ST. TOT LOT

Tot lot .04 a. (Parks Dept.)
Locked playground.



Blackstone Community School:

Need structured activities: lessons, leagues. Need areas for league play and instruction clinics: softball, volleyball, basketball, tennis courts.

Need pool: could teach lifesaving and swimming courses.

Energy should be spent fixing up existing spaces, rather than acquiring more space.

Plaza Betances is the most used space in the South End.

Parks and playgrounds need maintenance contracts to ensure upkeep.

Blackstone Schoolyard would be improved if it had a garden, mosaics or murals on the walls.

Not enough plots in Gazebo Garden; could use Parcel #RC9 plot for more plots.

"More activities should be planned for Franklin & Blackstone Squares - it brings together ethnic groups, creates a sense of community pride and involvement."

South End Community Health Center:

Safety is the biggest issue determining which parks work and which don't. Success of Plaza Betances is due to its similarity to lifestyle, customs of Puerto Ricans - they can relate to it. But problem of traffic allowed in. Likes its design, aesthetics.

Likes Franklin/Blackstone park concept, but in reality full of vagrants and drugs.

Harbor Light:

Need a space, use of space at Cathedral like that at IBA.

Bradford Shawmut:

Need affordable housing; already enough open space; housing should be primary concern.

Bradford St. Organization:

General need for green, asthetically pleasing open space.

Hope House:

Problem of the visual "messiness" of Berkeley St. Gardens, although all agree that it is beneficial to the people using it. "Do not like 'gardens.'"

Escuelita Agueybana Day Care Center:

Greatly in need of playground, as true of most day care centers. Depressing state of playground - broken equipment, glass, drugs, vagrants.

O'Day has great potential if upgraded - put up 10' fence and issue keys. Fix up

OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY RESIDENTS

Open space on corner of Warren Avenue, Berkeley St. & Tremont should be made into a park.

Many use the Esplanade, Public Gardens, and the Common.

Need more grass.

Parks would be safer if well lit.

Need more tot lots and safe places for children to play.

Need more benches, passive garden areas to sit and relax, particularly for the elderly.

Need affordable housing.

Great fear for safety.

Many interviewed rarely used any outdoor space.

Do use the Public Garden, the Common, and Esplanade.

Existing space should be "fixed up" - cleaned and supervised or patrolled by the police.

Need community garden.

Like mural at IBA.

People commented that they were either too busy or too old to go far; spaces not near where they live.

Security is the main problem: "Drug traffic by outsiders who camouflage themselves as basketball players."

Reiterated the need to clean up already existing spaces.

More tot lots, play equipment, swings, slides needed for the children.

Rutland & Warren Ave. are nice, quiet parks to be with kids alone.

OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

All made reference to fact that general problems (particularly of Peters Park, Ringold Playground) are problems of safety, primarily at night. Problems of vagrancy, teenagers hanging out, drugs. Lack of places for young children to play; more open space is needed, or at least existing spaces should be kept open.

Census Tract 705:

Recommendations:

1. Preserve 60% of the Berkeley Street Garden as public open space. Develop housing at the Shawmut Avenue end (in conjunction with vacant Dwight Street parcel). This would enhance the "eyes of the street" at this edge of Peters Park, as well as provide oversight for the Berkeley Street garden. Develop the street edge of Tremont Street.

On the remaining garden site, create a public-access tot lot behind the new housing fronting on Shawmut Avenue, and create a public-access "greensward" area to complement the gardens. Ensure primary access to community garden plots for low and moderate income residents of the surrounding neighborhood. Plant street trees along the entire linear parcel at the Berkeley Street edge (see Appendix).

2. Improve the sense of ownership and supervision of Peters Park through creation of rehabilitated and new housing visually oriented toward the park. In addition, support staffing for the park to improve its use. (The neighborhood should work closely with the City of Boston's Parks and Recreation Department and Office of Capital Planning to redesign those elements of the park which are not now satisfactory, and to discuss future staffing requirements.)
3. The Blackstone School play areas should be cleaned of broken glass; benches and play equipment should be repaired. The Community School's desire for a garden and mural on the site should be supported. The schoolyard should be strictly monitored by school officials and police to ensure that students and neighborhood residents are not subjected to drug dealing on school premises.
4. Blackstone Square must be reclaimed for positive use by senior citizens and children, at least at the center, where the fountain could create a much-needed amenity on hot summer days. Broken glass must be kept out of the fountain, and summer activities encouraged on the part of neighboring organizations and the Parks and Recreation Department.
5. Designate the "Gazebo Garden" at Rutland and Washington Streets as permanent public open space under the BRA's new zoning amendment. Support the South End Garden Project's efforts to obtain foundation and other funding to redesign the garden and obtain high-quality, permanent fencing.
6. Residents of IBA and the Esquelita Agueybana Daycare Center expressed a general need for more play areas for young children. This could be accommodated by upgrading the tot lot at Blackstone Square, reclaiming Blackstone Square for family use, upgrading the Blackstone School's play areas and upgrading and staffing at O'Day Playground.
7. O'Day Playground represents a tremendously underutilized open space resource for central South End residents. Its location is ideal but the facilities need capital improvements, daily maintenance and programming. (Much of this has begun as part of the Parks and Recreation Department's capital and staffing improvements.)
8. The residents of this census tract, 23% of whom are under 19 years of age, 23% are living in poverty and 57% are without access to a car, are currently underserved in

terms of large public recreational open spaces. While no large tracts of land are available for additional softball or soccer fields, perhaps more basketball and volleyball courts could be created in conjunction with planned new development.



706

CENSUS TRACT 706

Including Pilot Block, Ellis

Total Persons 2,657

0-5 years old	3%
5-14	8%
15-19	4%
20-34	43%
35-54	28%
55-64	8%
65+	8%

Persons 19 and under 15%

Persons over 55 16%

Total Households 1,309

Persons per household 1.93

Per capita income \$10,938

Individuals living below poverty level 14.7%

Families living below poverty level 6.7%

Ethnicity by household

White	78%
Black	10%
Asian	6%
Spanish Origin	6%
Other	0%

Language other than English spoken at home 20%

No access to car 46%

Total Housing Units 1,430

Occupied Units 92%

Vacant Units 8%

Owner-occupied 30%

Renter-occupied 70%

Permanent Public Open Space

(Includes schoolyard play areas, plazas, squares, parks, totlots, playgrounds, and totlots, plazas and seating areas in public housing developments) .61 AC

Schoolyards (Primarily parking) 1.02 AC

1.63 AC

Undesignated Public Open Space

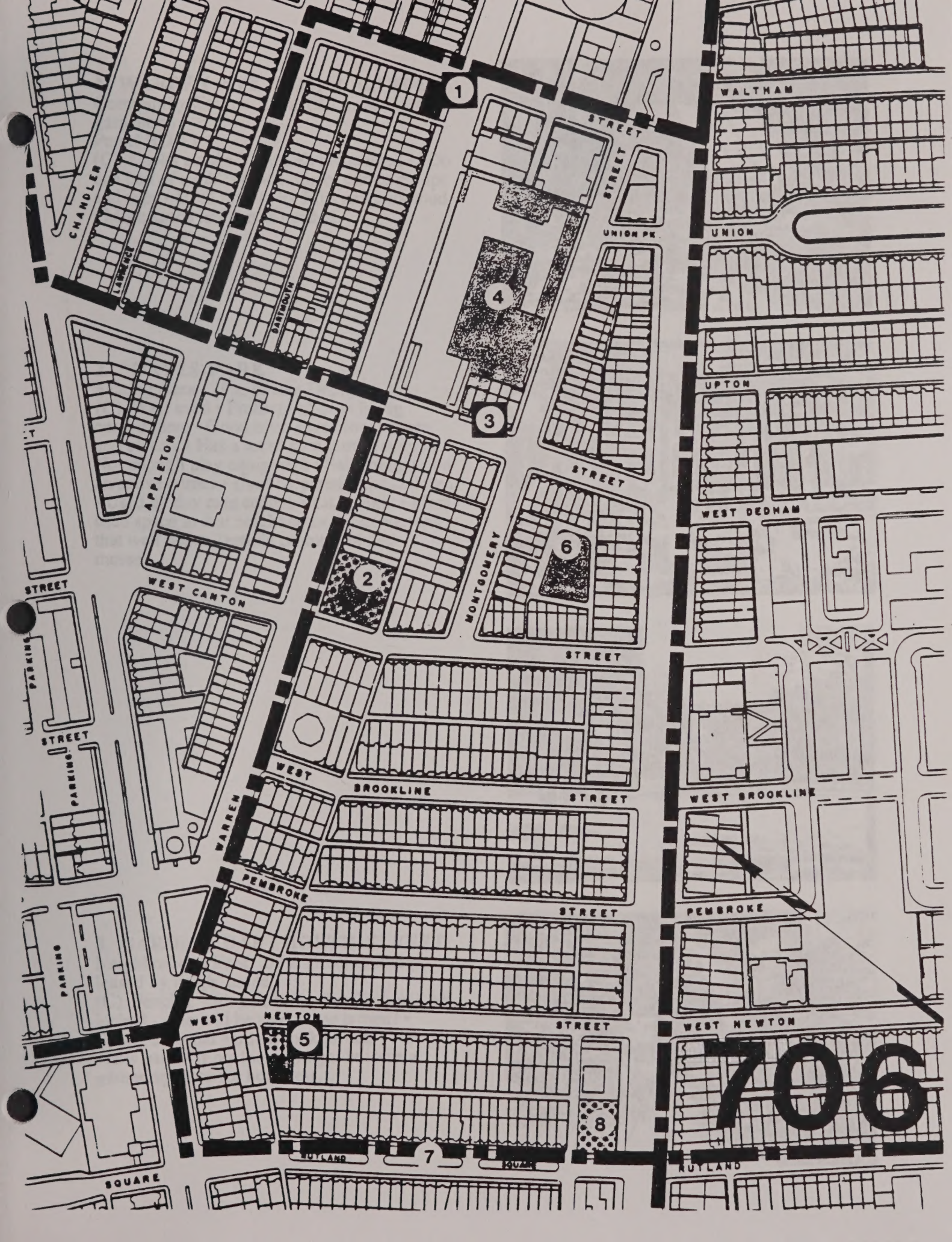
(Includes community gardens and interim use parks/courts) .15 AC

Interim Use Only

(Includes D.P.W. right-of-way) 0.00 AC

Semi-Private Parks/Courts

(Not open to the public) .21 AC



706

1. WARREN AVE. COMM. GARDEN

Community Garden .05 a. (BRA, maint. by gardeners)

Parcel RD-13

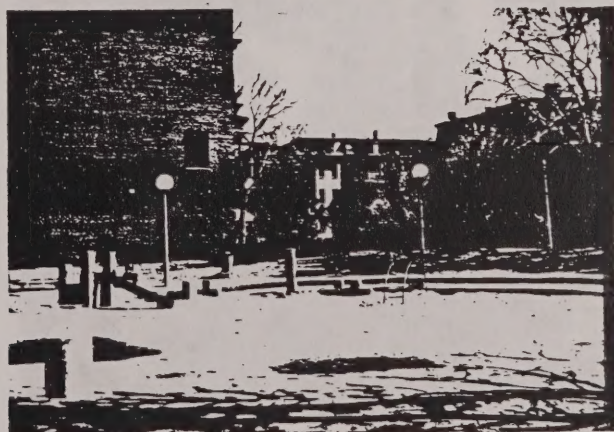
(C) Looks good • Very well maintained • "Do one hell of a job" • Good mix of ethnic groups and ages • Used mainly by Ellis neighborhood • More space like this is needed.



2. "HAYES PARK"

Seating Area .29 a. (Parks Dept.)

(C) Well used • Problem of dogs being curbed there • Good open space for children and elderly • Has a lot of community support • Not enough play equipment • Safe, because on an active corner • Used by parents and children • Used by day care centers • Lit at night • Most used space in that neighborhood, but not really that well kept • Terrible problem of dog messes.



3. GARDEN, DARTMOUTH STREET

Neighborhood Park .09 a. (Real Property, leased by neigh. assoc.)

(C) Fencing with gate being installed; will be locked - who will be able to use it then? • Sitting area and gardens look private • Not really used • If not locked might become a gathering place for homeless.



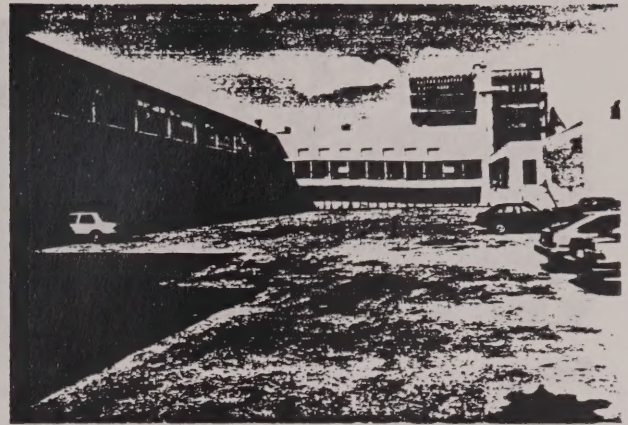
4. MACKEY SCHOOL

Parking Lot 1.02 a. (Public Facilities/ School Dept.)

(C) Needs to be redone; less asphalt • No place for kids actually to play • It is really a parking lot • Not used • Ellis Association has \$30,000 to turn it into a non-paved, passive area; but also want to meet school program needs.

Three separate areas:

1. Access from Dartmouth- faculty parking.
2. Access from Warren Ave- to be parking.
3. Note - Narrow strip on Montgomery is separate from areas used for parking.



5. 'HISCOCK PARK'

Neighborhood Tot Lot .11 a. (BRA with Neigh. Assoc.- Disposition Parcel) Parcel RR-10

(R) Well used, maintained by neighborhood • Safe • Too many "big" kids use it • Nice planting • Very actively used by young people • Others claim it is overgrown and run down, not well used, and that dense shrubbery makes it unsafe.



6. MONTGOMERY PARK

Neighborhood Park .21 a. (Neigh. Assoc.)

(C) Privately owned • Beautifully maintained • Most people interviewed were not familiar with it • Safe, but not really used because locked.



7. RUTLAND SQUARE

Residential Square .14 a. (Neigh. Assoc.)

(C) Well maintained by people who live on Rutland Sq. • Looks nice • Small.



8. SOUTH END LIBRARY

Seating Area .09 a. (Public Facilities/Library Dept.)

(C) "Should be maintained by a local community group" • In terrible condition • Unsafe - rapes • Needs policing • Problem of vagrants • Columns should be removed; they make it a "logical place to lurk" • Useless area right now • Needs repair, benches • People curb dogs there. Not at all maintained.



OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY RESIDENTS

Need a soccer or ball field.

Need more places for kids to play.

Many use Tubman, Titus Sparrow, and Blackstone parks, Christian Science Center.

Southwest Corridor has potential, could be nice.

Would like to see more open spaces: grass and gardens, not necessarily active spaces.

Turn on water at Tubman Park.

OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Mackey School:

"Because they have no safe or usable space, (students) have no outdoor programs."

Homeless people are a major problem.

South End Police Protection Committee:

Emphasis must be put on preserving open space - it has a very positive impact on youth and elderly."

Pilot Block Neighborhood Association:

Kids in neighborhood need a place to play.

Tubman Park needs a memorial to Harriet Tubman, needs equipment for children. Loud music is a problem.

Ellis Neighborhood Association:

"Lower income areas need more open space."

Screen community gardens with shrubbery to make them more visually appealing.

Census Tract 706:

Recommendations:

1. Designate the community garden on Warren Avenue and Clarendon Street as permanent public open space under the BRA's new open space zoning amendment. Support the garden group in applying for permanent, high-quality fencing.
2. Designate the Hiscock Park tot lot as permanent public open space under the BRA's new open space zoning amendment. Support the neighbors in applying to local foundations for a small capital improvement grant to upgrade landscaping.
3. Remove the brick columns from the South End Branch Public Library to improve safety and visual access. Redesign the courtyard as a small passive park, with space reserved for small children's activities.
4. Reclaim the Mackey School's paved schoolyard, much of which is used for teacher parking, for active and passive recreational uses. Assess the possibility of granting resident parking status to teachers and identifying local residents who leave early in the morning by car for their own place of employment whose schedules might complement those of the teachers.



CENSUS TRACT 707

Including Cosmopolitan, Methunion, Tent City

Total Persons 1,583

0-5 years old 4%
5-14 9%
15-19 8%
20-34 41%
35-54 24%
55-64 7%
65+ 7%

Persons 19 and under 21%

Persons over 55 14%

Total Households 765

Persons per household 2.05

Per capita income \$8,834

Individuals living below poverty level 13.4%

Families living below poverty level 19.4%

Ethnicity by household

White 53%
Black 41%
Asian 1%
Spanish Origin 5%
Other 0%

Language other than English spoken at home 10%

No access to car 50%

Total Housing Units 860

Occupied Units 89%

Vacant Units 11%

Owner-occupied 20%

Renter-occupied 80%

Permanent Public Open Space

(Includes schoolyard play areas, plazas, squares, parks, totlots, playgrounds, and totlots, plazas and seating areas in public housing developments) 1.44 AC

Schoolyards (Primarily parking) 0.00 AC

1.44 AC

Undesignated Public Open Space

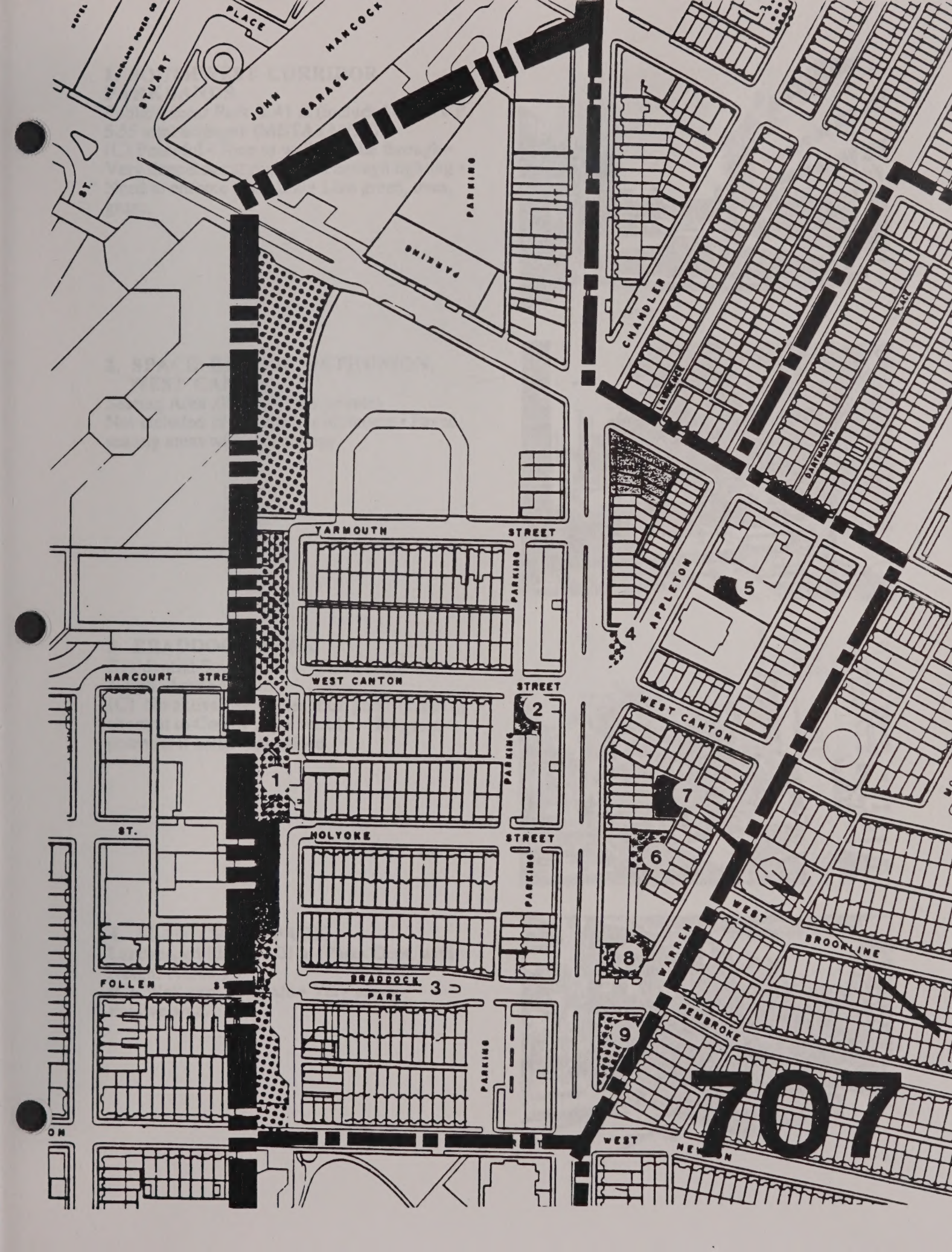
(Includes community gardens and interim use parks/courts) .10 AC

Interim Use Only

(Includes D.P.W. right-of-way) 0.00 AC

Semi-Private Parks/Courts

(Not open to the public) .25 AC



STUART
PLACE
JOHN GARAGE
HANCOCK
PARKING
CHANDLER
BARTON

YARMOUTH STREET
WEST CANTON
PARKING
HARCOURT STREET
ST.

MOLYOKE
STREET
PARKING
BRADDOCK PARK
FOLLEN ST.

APPLETON
WEST CANTON
WARREN
BROOKLINE
PENBROKE
WEST NEWTON

707

1. SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PARKLANDS

Public Linear Park 2.41 a. (included in SWCP
5.55 total acreage) (MBTA / MDC)

(C) Peaceful • Nice to walk or bike through •
Very dangerous at night - not enough lighting •
Need to enforce leash law • Like green, trees,
grass.



2. SPACE BEHIND METHUNION, WEST CANTON

Seating Area .05 a. (Shared private)
Not included in original questionnaire • Paved
seating areas with tree canopy.



3. BRADDOCK PARK

Residential Square .09 a. (Parks Dept. with
Neigh. Assoc.)

(C) No active use • Does look good • Used as
shortcut to Copley Sq. • Weedy • Has great
potential if better maintained.



4. ALAN CRITE PARK

Landscaped Planter .01 a. (Parks Dept. with
Neigh. Assoc.)

(C) Well kept up • Safe • Very pretty •
Passive area.



5. RICE BANCROFT

Park .09 a. (Private)

(C) Private, fenced in • "Too bad because kids used to play there" • Does look pretty.



6. SPACE BEHIND METHUNION ON EAST SIDE OF COLUMBUS

Seating Area .04 a. (Private)

Not included in original questionnaire.



7. CARLTON PARK

Park .07 a. (Private - Neigh. Group)

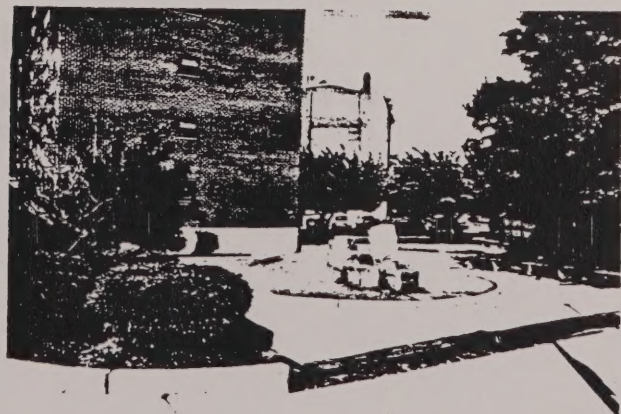
(C) Seems neglected, but still used • No lights; unsafe.



8. PAVED AREA NEXT TO METHUNION

Paved Seating Area .10 a. (Methunion)

(C) Supposed to be for residents, but others do come in and use it (construction workers eat there) • Safe •



9. HARRIET TUBMAN SQUARE

Park .14 a. (Parks Dept.)

(C) Used a lot by residents in other sections of South End • Nice to sit and read in • Garden maintained by neighbors • Well kept up • Used by all ages • Safe • Nice benches and trees • Needs equipment for children.



OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY RESIDENTS

There is enough existing open space; need to keep up what is there already.

Need soccer or ball fields.

Park on Chandler & Dartmouth should be open to the public.

OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Methunion Manor Coop. Corp.:

Maintenance is a big problem.

People with small children need more play area.

Older kids use Sparrow; not safe for younger kids. Drugs.

Indoor recreational facility needed for teenagers, possibly with a theater and/or after-school programs.

"Cup Park" above Orange Line tot lot is in good shape, loved by kids.

Cosmopolitan Neighborhood Association:

The area is becoming gentrified.

Most homeowners have yards; tenants need more gardens.

"We have enough parks, but the problem is the kids using and selling drugs and the drunks who take over and push out the people for whom the park is intended."

Limited Equity Housing Coop.:

Many use the Clarendon "yuppie park" for kids.

Census Tract 707:

Recommendations:

1. Despite the presence of nearby Titus Sparrow Park, there appears to be a great need for additional play spaces for young children. The new Southwest Corridor Parkland may meet some of this need. However, all existing play areas should be upgraded and maintained.
2. Designate the park next to Methunion at Pembroke and Columbus as permanent public open space under the BRA's new open space zoning amendment. Explore the possibility of creating a summer spray water feature on this currently underutilized site.
3. Given the lack of adequate outdoor recreational facilities for children and teenagers and the high degree of concern with drugs in this census tract, programming in parks and playgrounds for youths of all ages is essential.
4. Encourage residents to use the new Orange Line for access to Franklin Park and the Arnold Arboretum through publicity by the MBTA.



CENSUS TRACT 708

Including Claremont, Titus Sparrow Park, Piano Factory

Total Persons 2,830

0-5 years old	3%
5-14	8%
15-19	3%
20-34	37%
35-54	25%
55-64	9%
65+	14%

Persons 19 and under 14%

Persons over 55 23%

Total Households 1,612

Persons per household 1.71

Per capita income \$7,842

Individuals living below poverty level 19%

Families living below poverty level 20.8%

Ethnicity by household

White	28%
Black	67%
Asian	1%
Spanish Origin	4%
Other	0%

Language other than English spoken at home 9%

No access to car 61%

Total Housing Units 1,935

Occupied Units 83%

Vacant Units 17%

Owner-occupied 12%

Renter-occupied 88%

Permanent Public Open Space

(Includes schoolyard play areas, plazas, squares, parks, totlots, playgrounds, and totlots, plazas and seating areas in public housing developments)

3.62 AC

Schoolyards (Primarily parking)

0.00 AC

3.62 AC

Undesignated Public Open Space

(Includes community gardens and interim use parks/courts)

.43 AC

Interim Use Only

(Includes D.P.W. right-of-way)

0.00 AC

Semi-Private Parks/Courts
(Not open to the public)

.63 AC

Children's World Day Care Center:

Need another playground in area - primarily one with a lot of grass for the kids to run on.

Great need for a sprinkler/spray area for hot days.

Existing playgrounds full of glass, odd broken equipment, homeless people, thus basically unusable.



1

2

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708

1. TITUS SPARROW PARK

Park 1.52 a. (Parks Dept.)

(R) Potential drug problem, thus need for undercover police • Taking down basketball courts deterred teens, drugs • Headstart program uses play spaces there • Some adults do not see it as safe to be there • Remove wading pool at Sparrow Park that has never worked -- it is now a useless waste of land • (15 small garden plots distributed evenly between four adjacent neighborhoods and the Union Methodist Church) • Much better since fixed up • Used by people of a variety of ages • Sunbathing popular.



2. SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PARKLANDS

Public Linear Park 2.92 a. (included in SWCP 5.55 total acreage) (MBTA / MDC)

(C) Aesthetically pleasing • Like variety of plant material • Like its abundance, accessibility • Problem of lighting, safety



3. CONCORD SQUARE

Residential Square .11 a. (Parks Dept.)

(C) Maintained by neighborhood association • Tiny • A "pleasing oasis" • Problem of cars being parked all around it • Community involvement keeps landscape looking good.



4. CARTER SCHOOL

Schoolyard .09 a. (Public Facilities/ School Dept.)

(C) Well kept up • Private.



5. SARANAC / NEWCASTLE GARDEN

Community Garden .23 a. (BRA/MBTA with Community Gardeners)

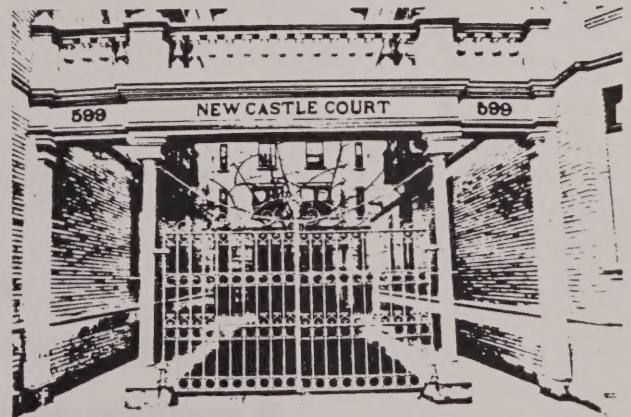
(C) Good way to interact with neighbors • "Beautiful."



6. NEWCASTLE COURT

Courtyard .06 a. (Private)

(C) Private, locked; fence • Pretty to walk by.



8. WORCESTER ST. GARDEN

Community Garden .53 a. (BRA, maint. by gardeners)

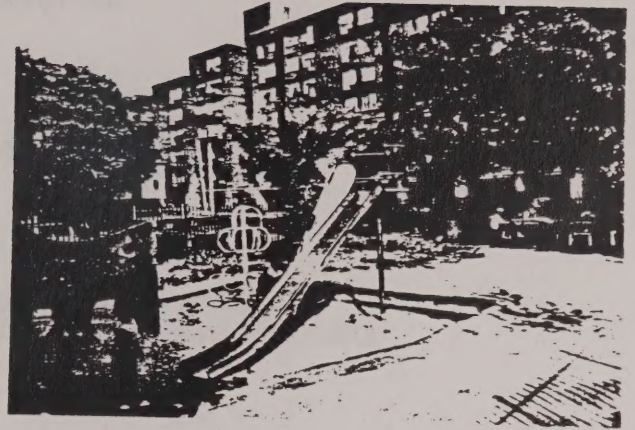
Parcel RE-2B

(C) Adds friendliness to the neighborhood • Long waiting list; need more community garden spaces • "Looks good" • Woman raped there - problem of area not being well lit • Community gardens are an excellent use of space - promote community closeness and cooperation • Needs better maintenance.



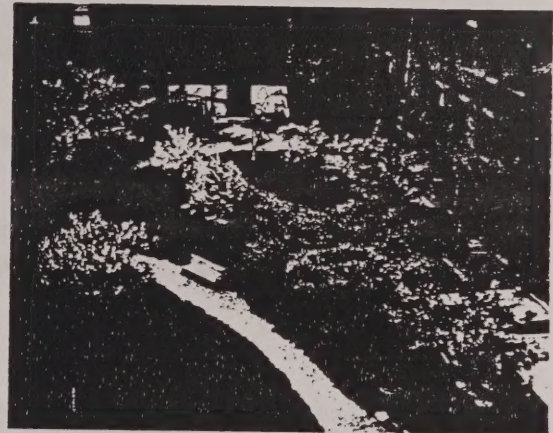
7. WORCESTER ST. PLAYGROUND & TOTLOT

Playground .21 a. (Parks Dept.)
(C) Not well maintained • Glass, debris • Kids once loved the climbing equipment. Used every day by nursery school.



9. PIANO CRAFT GUILD

Courtyard .57 a. (Private)
(C) Safe, enclosed, private, quiet • Well maintained • Nice, need more such semi-private, well maintained places • Like flowering trees • Like privateness, sense of being "their" space • Nice place for kids to play, and sitting areas for older residents.



OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY RESIDENTS

Need safe, clean, open space.

If don't use spaces, it is due to fear for safety.

Want an exercise fitness center, like on the Esplanade.

Need more community gardens. They are wonderful for the elderly.

"Any successful increase in public space needs community participation in maintaining the space - part of the enjoyment of the space is getting your hands dirty."

Need more play equipment in parks, more landscaped spaces.

"Open space is important only if it is utilized and cared for. The resources to maintain the open space are as important as more open space."

Need more playgrounds for younger children. Kids use the swings at Hurley Playground and Sparrow Park. Sparrow Park would be more successful if designed for a specific age group as opposed to trying to meet needs of all ages of children.

Need more grassy areas, basketball and tennis courts.

Mounted police should patrol parks - they fit into the image of Boston parks and would ensure safety.

OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Carter School:

They have a lot of land and adjacent bike paths, Carter Playground. They are happy with their situation?

South End Neighborhood Action Program:

Problem is not necessarily teens and drugs, but it seems that playgrounds, basketball courts, open land such as the Southwest Corridor Parklands attract drug dealers and users to congregate.

United South End Settlements:

Problem with open space, especially in the South End, is that it attracts undesirables, thus need programming, activity planned for spaces. This activity will deter vagrants.

O'Day Playground is right next door to them and yet so dirty, so much drug use that they can't use.

"We have a good amount of open space; the biggest issue is maintenance and upkeep." What is needed is a variety of types of spaces - passive, tot lots, ball fields that are well designed and maintained.

Claremont Neighborhood Association:

Preserving and maintaining what space they already have should be key. Renovate buildings for housing, as opposed to taking over open lots for housing. The South End is already dense enough. "We are in double jeopardy by increasing density by taking open land for more housing." There has to be a balance between open space and the amount of new housing planned.

Southwest Corridor Parklands begins to meet needs with the addition of new open space. New community gardens are probably not needed due to the new plots provided by the Southwest Corridor, but the Worcester Street Community Garden is very well used and should be preserved.

"Playgrounds should be designed for target age groups; trying to make everyone happy ends up compromising too much." The design outcome is weak, unsuccessful.

Those with children seem to use the new Southwest Corridor tot lots most frequently.

The spaces most loved by kids are those that are simple and small (e.g. Warren & Canton playground), which has sand and some simple equipment as well as the park on W. Newton with a slide and sand.

Soccer programs, little league should take place at Carter as they do now on the Common.

Large problem of existing trees being destroyed by contractors doing renovations, new construction. They run into trees, then do not replace them. When eventually the trees dies, D.P.W. merely paves over the tree pits. The area is losing street trees quickly.

The key to success of open space in the South End is community involvement, thus will be maintained, supervised.

Police need to patrol parks more.

"We need more open space along Wellington Street, which is so dense, a large number of buildings on it."

Need passive green park space.

Two lots on Wellington should be taken over from the BRA for open space (one on the corner of Claremont called "Wellington Green," and one at #26 Wellington, where building burned down). There are few kids in the neighborhood; really don't need more playgrounds.

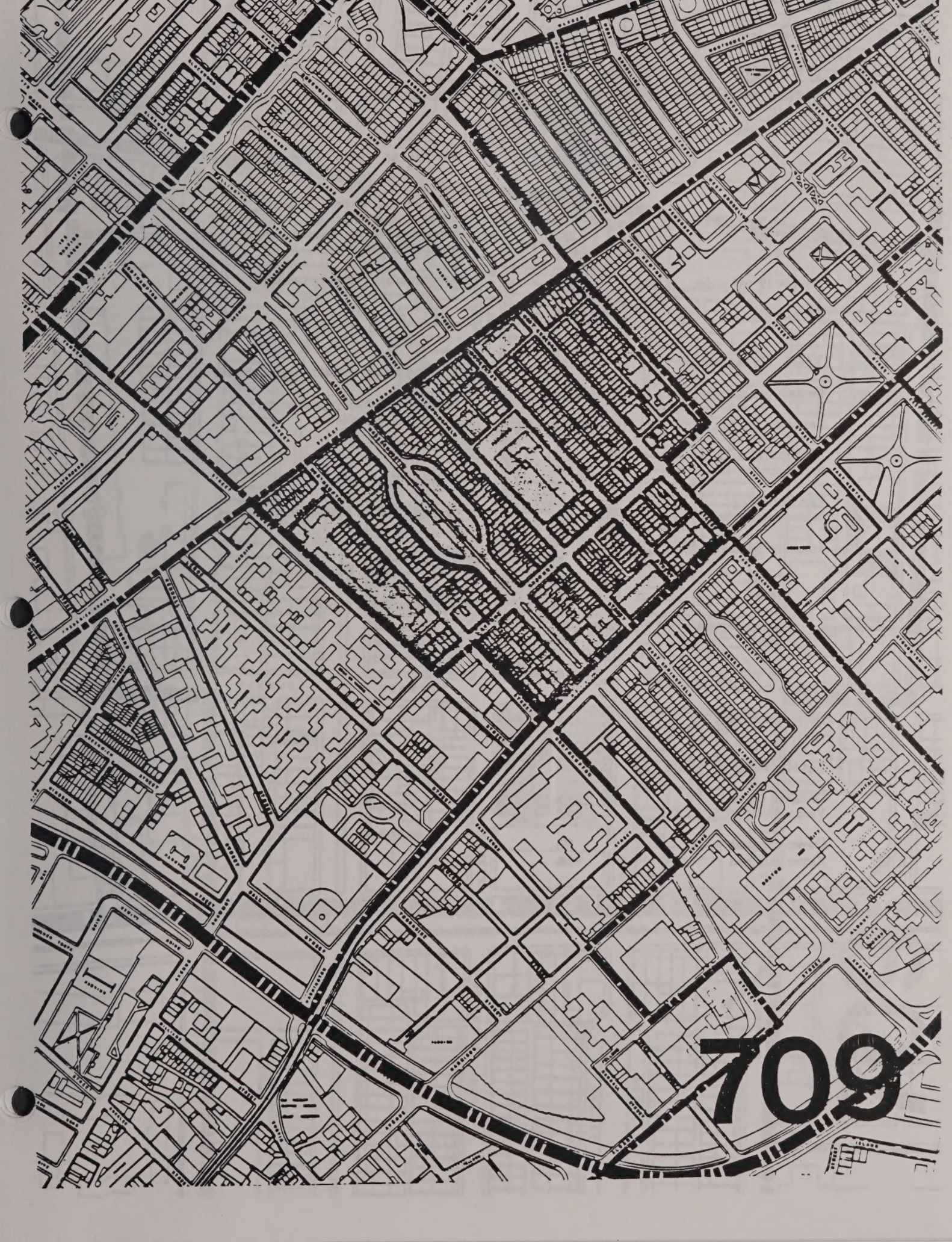
Zion Church:

Most people moving to area are professionals without many children, and do not need more playgrounds. South End in general needs more garden plots - good for economic and recreational benefits.

Census Tract 708:

Recommendations:

1. Given concerns about drugs in Titus Sparrow Park, programmed activities would encourage more family use of the park and provide additional supervision.
2. There appears to be a consensus that more play space is needed for young children. The play area on Worcester Street should be upgraded to provide for maximum use by area children and day care centers.
3. Designate the Worcester Street Community Garden as permanent public open space under the BRA's new open space zoning amendment. Add a landscaped seating area at the edge of the garden adjacent to the senior public housing development to increase enjoyment of the garden by non-gardening seniors. (Demand for community garden plots in and around this census tract is tremendous. The MBTA was recently forced to rule that only those persons living to the west of Columbus Avenue would be eligible to apply for any of the 62 new community garden plots on the Southwest Corridor Park in the South End. If the Worcester Street Community Garden were lost, the senior citizens now using it would lose access to a critical open space resource.) This recommendation is fully supported by the Claremont Neighborhood Association.
4. Encourage residents to use the new Orange line for access to Franklin Park and the Arnold Arboretum through publicity by the MBTA.
5. Explore the possibility of designating the vacant lot on the corner of Wellington Street and Columbus Avenue as open space under the BRA's new zoning amendment.



709

CENSUS TRACT 709

Including Chester Park, Harley School, Six Points

Total Persons 2,734

0-5 years old 6%
 5-14 12%
 15-19 8%
 20-34 35%
 35-54 21%
 55-64 8%
 65+ 10%

Persons 19 and under 26%

Persons over 55 18%

Total Households 1,259

Persons per household 2.07

Per capita income \$6,393

Individuals living below poverty level 22.0%

Families living below poverty level 20.5%

Ethnicity by household

White 26%
 Black 62%
 Asian 2%
 Spanish Origin 10%
 Other 0%

Language other than English spoken at home 19%

No access to car 32%

Total Housing Units 1,465

Occupied Units 86%

Vacant Units 14%

Owner-occupied 5%

Renter-occupied 95%

Permanent Public Open Space

(Includes schoolyard play areas, plazas, squares, parks, totlots, playgrounds, and totlots, plazas and seating areas in public housing developments) 1.49 AC

Schoolyards (Primarily parking) 0.60 AC

2.09 AC

Undesignated Public Open Space

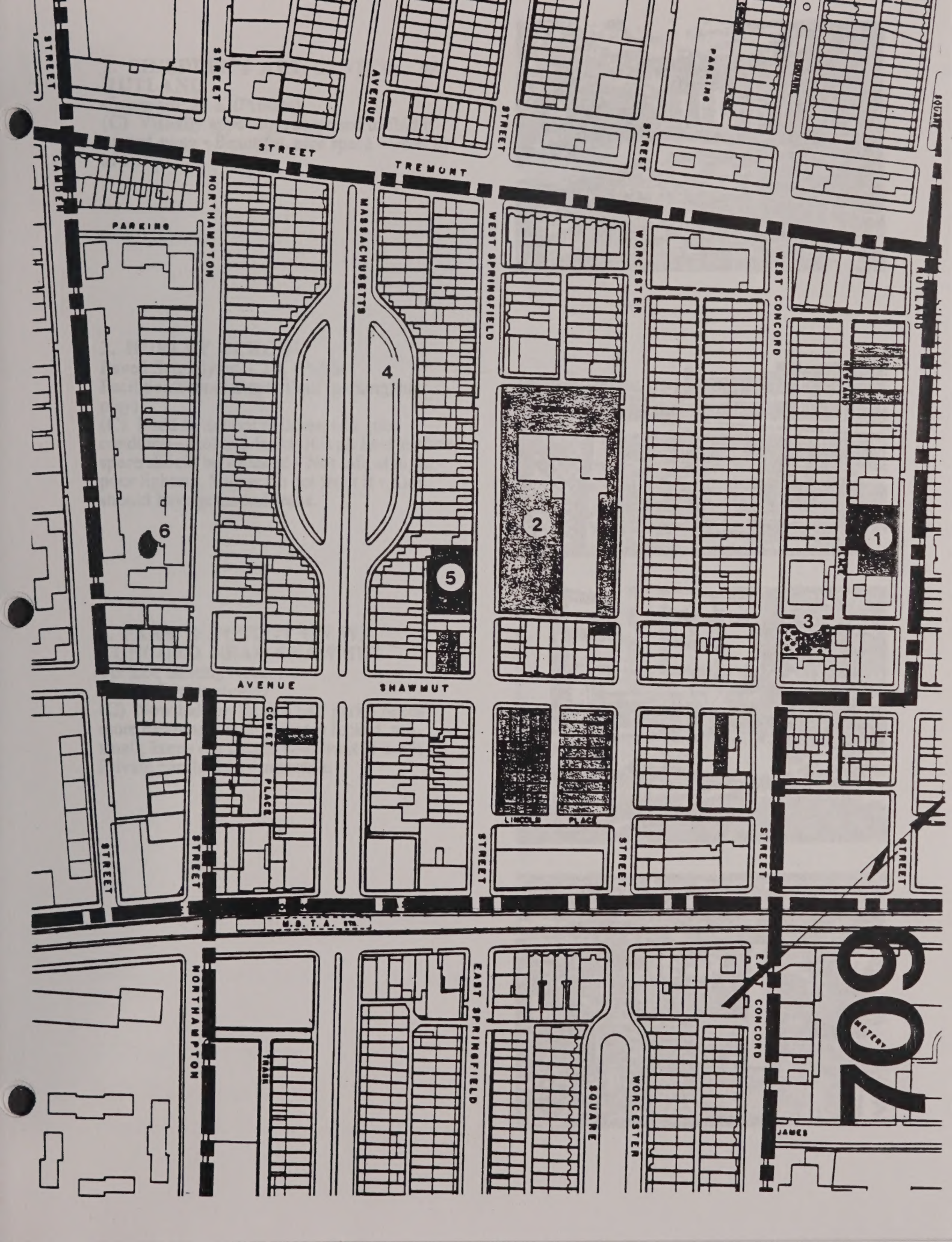
(Includes community gardens and interim use parks/courts) .19 AC

Interim Use Only

(Includes D.P.W. right-of-way) 0.00 AC

Semi-Private Parks/Courts

(Not open to the public) .23 AC



607
BETTER

JAMES

EAST CONCORD STREET

WEST CONCORD STREET

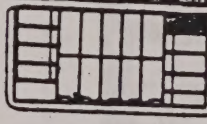
WORCESTER SQUARE

WORCESTER STREET

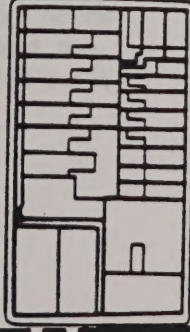
EAST SPRINGFIELD STREET

STREET

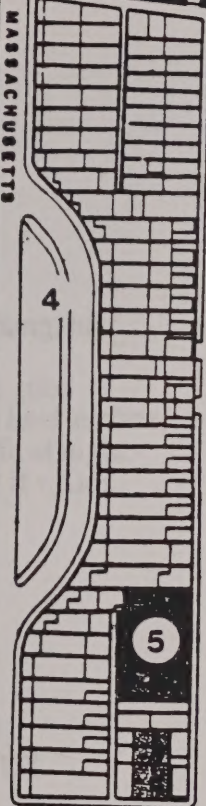
LINCOLN PLACE



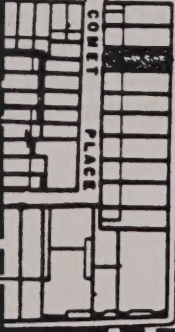
WEST SPRINGFIELD STREET



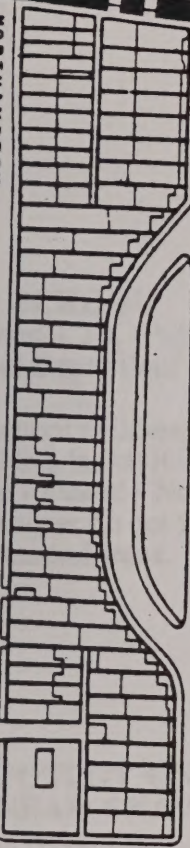
SHAWMUT AVENUE



MASSACHUSETTS STREET



CORSET PLACE



NORTHAMPTON STREET

STREET

PARKING

CARDEN STREET

STREET

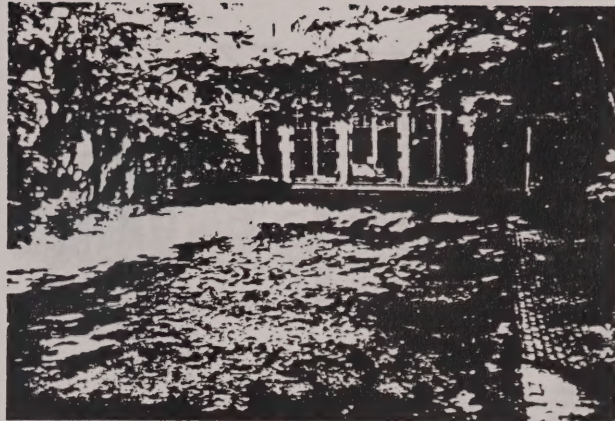
STREET

U.S. T.A. Stn.

1. CHILDREN'S ART CENTER: 48 RUTLAND

Courtyard .23 a. (Private)

(C) Visually appealing, surprised to find it tucked away • Beautiful, nice space • Used by kids.



2. HURLEY SCHOOL

Paved Schoolyard 1.2 a. (Public
Facilities/School Dept.) (half parking, half
play)

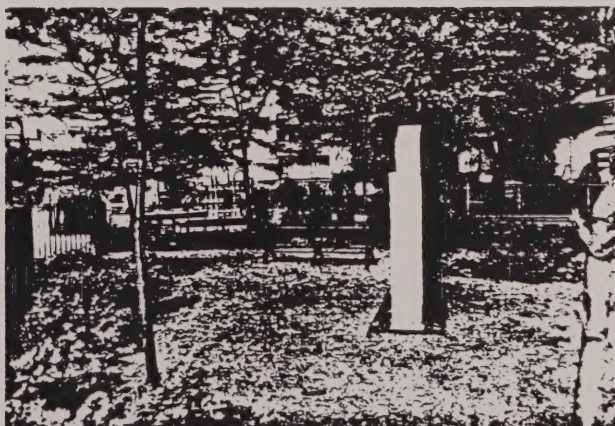
(C) Used by school children • In good
condition - problem is that it is all hard surface;
space should be softened • Not safe at night -
poor lighting, houses do not front it • Kids
should have grass and trees.



3. PARK & TOTLOT ON W. CONCORD NEAR SHAWMUT

Tot Lot, Seating Area .1 a.
(BRA/Neighborhood)

(C) Now half tot lot and half park - needs
more cleaning • Sitting area is locked, too
small; keeps out people who want to use it •
Private part locked - unusable.



4. CHESTER PARK

Residential Square .68 a. (Parks Dept.)

(C) Visually appealing, nice to pass by •
Would it be better if children were allowed to
play there? • City should put swings there •
Redesign has caused it to be half well
maintained and half not • Problem of dogs
being curbed there.



5. W. SPRINGFIELD ST. GARDEN

Community Garden .21 a. (BRA - maint. by
gardeners)

Parcels SE-49, SE-7, RD-63, SE-2

(C) In good condition, a real asset to the
neighborhood • Economic benefit, community
pride - won award • "Needs more definiton -
the chain link fence is not successful" • Used
by adults, elderly • Looks nice to see green
things growing.



6. TOT LOTS AT ROXSE

Tot Lots .11 a. (ROXSE)

(C) Not included in original questionnaire.



OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY RESIDENTS

Need more community gardens - good leisure activity; keeps elderly busy.

OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

South End Historical Society:

They have a back yard that they are trying to fix up.

Family Life Program:

"Need more affordable housing."

Tenants' Development Corp.:

Green space should not be looked at, but should be used. Thus do not lock gates.

Project Place:

"Neighborhood needs more open space to be a viable neighborhood, but clients need housing."

Lower South End / Roxbury Redevelopment Association:

Need more passive space, have enough active space."

Census Tract 709:

Recommendations:

1. This census tract contains a high percentage of children under 19 years of age (26%) and an appreciable number of families living in poverty (20.5%). The Hurley School playground, currently completely paved and partially used for parking, should be redesigned to create a portion of greensward for children's use and a safe active play area.
2. Designate the West Springfield Street Community Garden as permanent open space under the BRA's open space zoning amendment. Support the garden group in its efforts to secure funding to upgrade and beautify the street edge of the garden and create a public-access landscaped seating area and flower garden in front.
3. Explore patterns of use at the West Concord Street park and tot lot to determine whether it could be opened more hours for general public use.

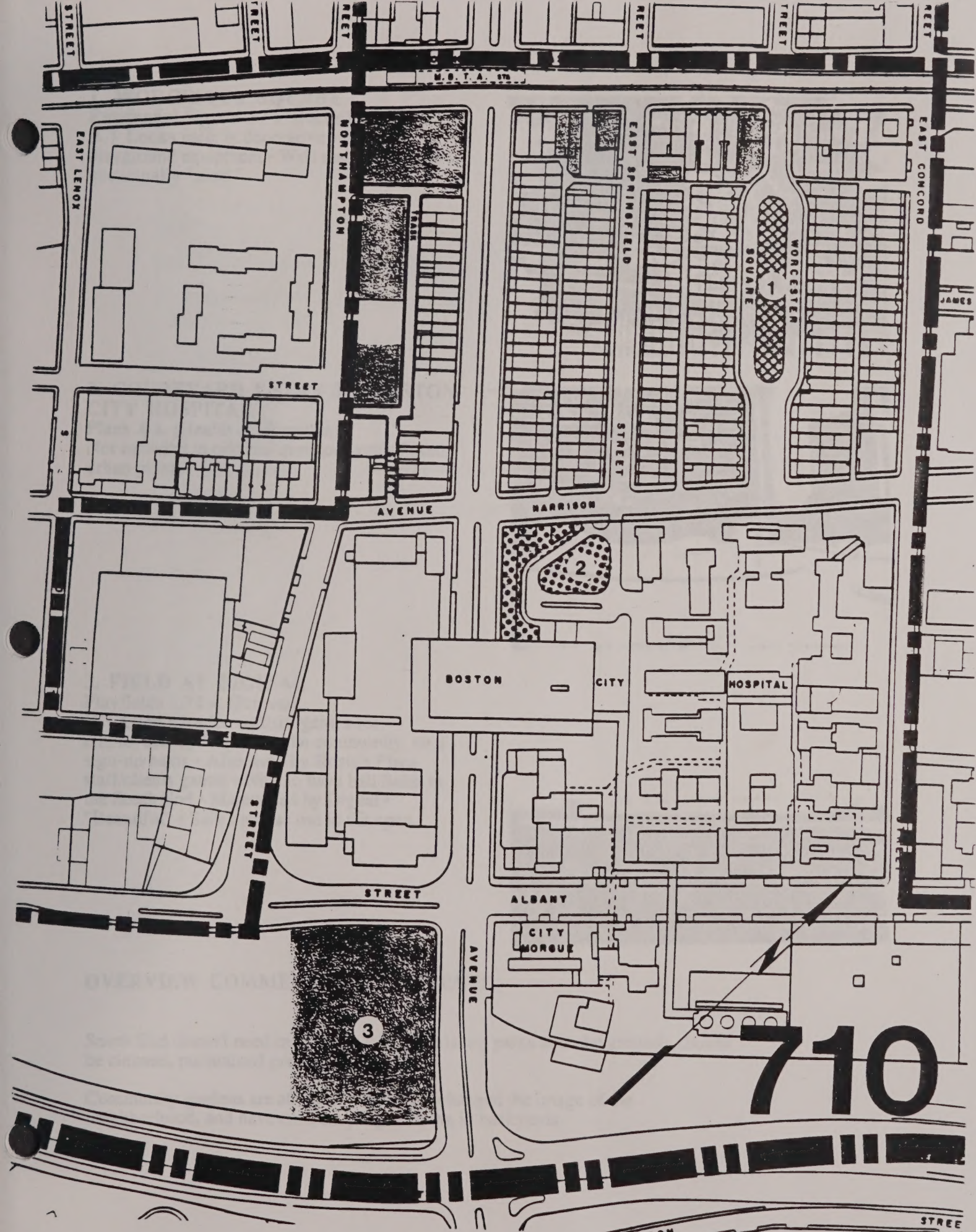


710

CENSUS TRACT 710

Including Worcester Square, Boston City Hospital

Total Persons	1,740	Permanent Public Open Space	
0-5 years old	4%	(Includes schoolyard play areas, plazas, squares, parks, totlots, playgrounds, and totlots, plazas and seating areas in public housing developments)	.97 AC
5-14	7%		
15-19	5%		
20-34	55%		
35-54	20%		
55-64	5%		
65+	4%	Schoolyards (Primarily parking)	0.00 AC
Persons 19 and under	16%		.97 AC
Persons over 55	9%		
Total Households	932	Undesignated Public Open Space	
Persons per household	1.68	(Includes community gardens and interim use parks/courts)	0.00 AC
Per capita income	\$8,264		
Individuals living below poverty level	23.6%	Interim Use Only	
Families living below poverty level		(Includes D.P.W. right-of-way)	0.00 AC
Ethnicity by household		Semi-Private Parks/Courts	
White	40%	(Not open to the public)	1.72 AC
Black	47%		
Asian	5%		
Spanish Origin	8%		
Other	0%		
Language other than English spoken at home	31%		
No access to car	51%		
Total Housing Units	1,085		
Occupied Units	86%		
Vacant Units	14%		
Owner-occupied	11%		
Renter-occupied	89%		



U.S. T. A. 575

NORTHAMPTON STREET

EAST LENOX STREET

STREET

AVENUE

HARRISON

EAST SPRINGFIELD STREET

SQUARE

WORCESTER

EAST CONCORD STREET

BOSTON

CITY

HOSPITAL

STREET

STREET

ALBANY

CITY MORGUE

AVENUE

3

2

710

STREET

1. WORCESTER SQUARE

Residential Square .37 a. (Parks Dept.)

(C) Looks nice, is decorative • No playground equipment • Well maintained; but not actually "used."



2. COURTYARD ENTRY TO BOSTON CITY HOSPITAL

Plaza .6 a. (Health & Hospitals)

Not included in original questionnaire • Paved urban plaza.



3. FIELD AT DIGITAL

Playfields 1.72 a. (Private)

(C) Used a lot for softball games for employees; by leagues in the community, on a sign-up basis • Also used by Rosie's Place staff/clients games • Nice to have ball fields in the South End • Maintained by Digital • "Beautiful" • Safe because out in the open.



OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY RESIDENTS

South End doesn't need more open spaces; existing parks and playgrounds should be cleaned, maintained properly.

Community gardens are all used. They have changed the image of the neighborhood, and have encouraged gardening in backyards.

OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Church of the Immaculate Conception:

They feel they are in a lucky place to have so much open space around their building.

Lead Paint Poisoning Prevention Project:

South End needs more open spaces; needs a place for kids to play; needs playgrounds for kids.

Boston City Hospital:

They feel they need more open space.

Digital Corp.:

They have enough space, grass area, to meet the needs of their employees.

Most employees commute, and do not use surrounding spaces in the neighborhood.

Census Tract 710:

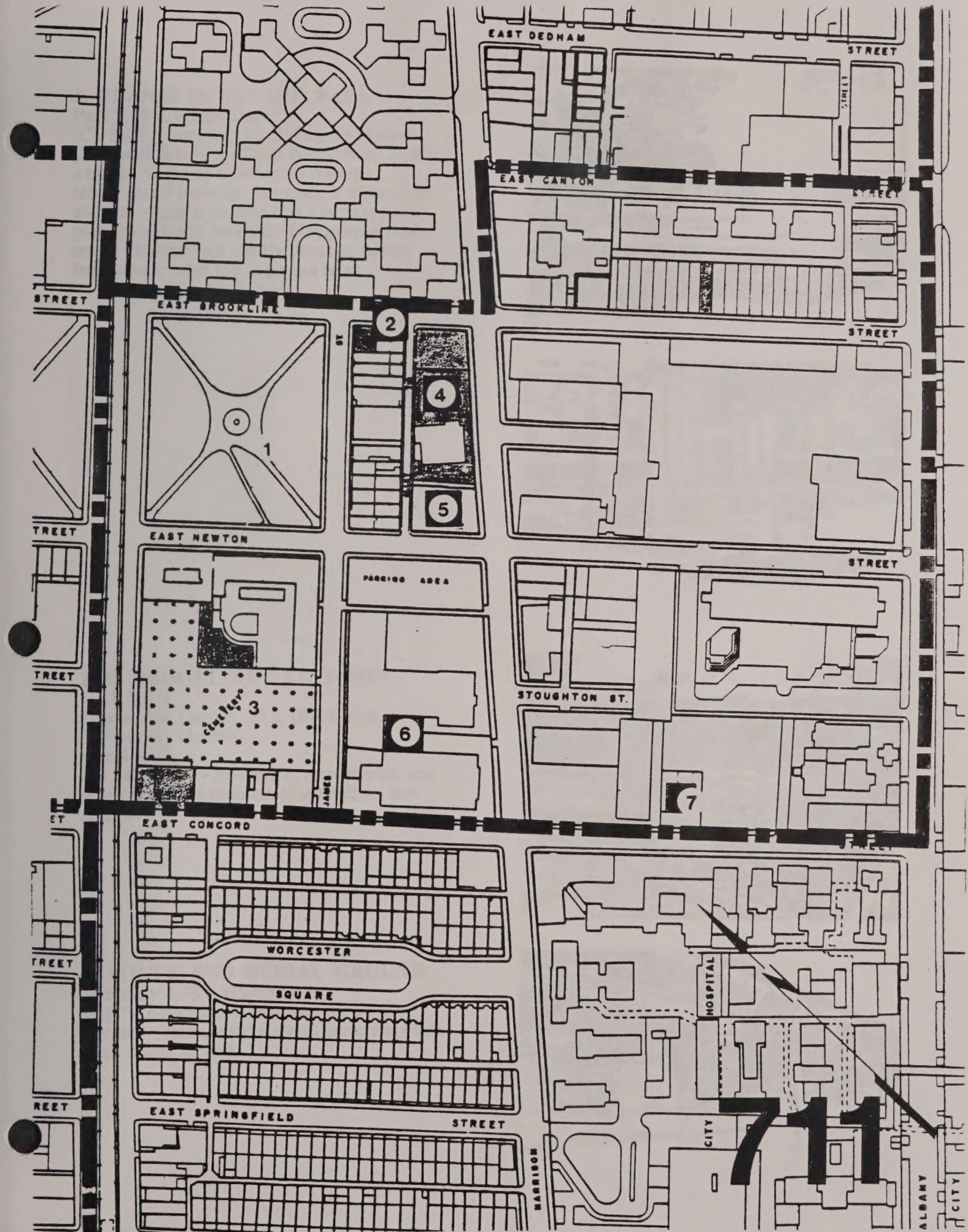
Recommendations:

1. Explore the possibility of clustering new housing units on BRA-owned development parcels at Northampton and Washington Streets to create a significant open area (a community garden, children's play area and landscaped court) to provide for current and new residents' open space needs. The Boston Archdiocese could be approached to contribute to this clustered zoning proposal.

CENSUS TRACT 711

Including Franklin Square, B.U. Medical Center

Total Persons	1,037	Permanent Public Open Space	
0-5 years old	4%	(Includes schoolyard play areas, plazas, squares, parks, totlots, playgrounds, and totlots, plazas and seating areas in public housing developments)	3.93 AC
5-14	8%		
15-19	7%		
20-34	24%		
35-54	16%		
55-64	8%		
65+	33%	Schoolyards (Primarily parking)	0.00 AC
Persons 19 and under	19%		3.93 AC
Persons over 55	41%		
Total Households	367	Undesignated Public Open Space	
Persons per household	1.59	(Includes community gardens and interim use parks/courts)	.66 AC
Per capita income	\$3,153		
Individuals living below poverty level	30.2%	Interim Use Only	
Families living below poverty level	25.2%	(Includes D.P.W. right-of-way)	0.00 AC
Ethnicity by household		Semi-Private Parks/Courts	
White	43%	(Not open to the public)	.11 AC
Black	40%		
Asian	6%		
Spanish Origin	11%		
Other	0%		
Language other than English spoken at home	15%		
No access to car	69%		
Total Housing Units	396		
Occupied Units	93%		
Vacant Units	7%		
Owner-occupied	2%		
Renter-occupied	98%		



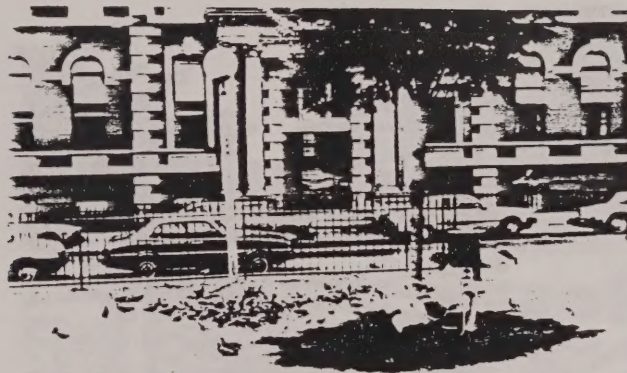
711

ALBANY CITY

1. FRANKLIN SQUARE PARK

Park 2.45 a. (Parks Dept.)

(C) Like community involvement • Mature park, well designed • Dogs everywhere, make a mess • Vagrants a problem • Newly refurbished • Redesign has made it more clean and safe • Like it because it is a large space to play football and baseball • Playground needs repair • Parents and elderly (housing across from square) also use to sit and relax.



2. E. BROOKLINE / ST. JAMES GARDEN

Community Garden .15 a. (BRA with Community Garden)
Parcel R-13

(C) Well used • Economic, recreational, and social benefits • problem of vandalism, low fence.



3. SOUTH END BURIAL GROUND

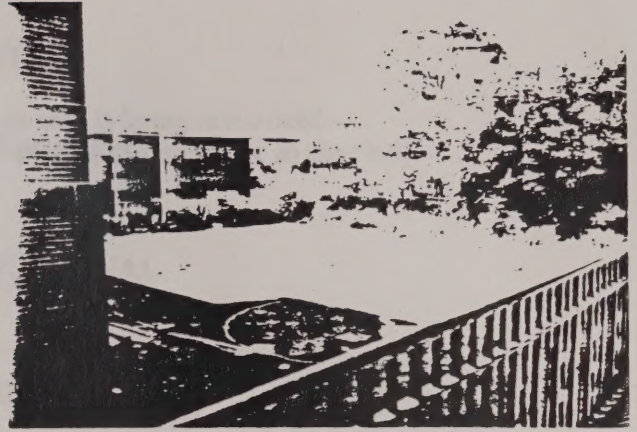
Cemetery 1.48 a. (Parks Dept.)

(C) "Would make a nice park for elderly people" • Trees, good view an attraction • Not used much, locked.



4. BATES SCHOOLYARD

Schoolyard .3 a. (BRA) Portion of parcel R-10
No one interviewed was familiar with this
space • Paved, glass-filled • Space not used.



5. GRASSED AREA ON CORNER OF E. NEWTON & HARRISON

Lawn .21 a. (BRA with Bates School & B.U.
Hospital)
Portion of parcel R-10
Not included in original questionnaire • Grassy
area • Sculpture located there.



6. COURTYARD AT CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Courtyard .05 a. (Private)
Not included in original questionnaire • Nicely
landscaped • Can be seen by passersby.



7. COURTYARD AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL ON E. CONCORD ST.

Courtyard .06 a. (Private)
Not included in original questionnaire • Grassy
area with benches and picnic tables • Used by
employees for lunch.



OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY RESIDENTS

Problem in the South End of displacing the poor as area is being revitalized.
Homeless, drug users in Franklin & Blackstone Square Residents like to play ball
at Digital Fields.

OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Blackstone/Franklin Sq. Neighborhood Association:

Existing spaces should be better maintained - want to see more neighborhood
involvement in maintenance.

Neighborhoods should take responsibility for their parks and not rely on the city so
heavily for maintenance.

Excessive vagrancy, drinking in parks a problem.

Neighborhood association is now promoting the use of their parks by sponsoring
barbecues, Saturday morning baton lessons for children.

Census Tract 711:

Recommendations:

1. The South End Burial Ground has historic interest and open space potential not currently realized because it is locked and unpublicized. This "lost space" should be reclaimed for public use in some fashion. (At the very least, perhaps residents of Franklin Square House and Back Bay Aging Concerns/Young and Old United could enjoy limited access to the area as a park.)
2. Franklin Square, like Blackstone Square, could benefit from the presence of a Park Ranger. Currently, the residents of Franklin Square House and the gardeners at the East Brookline/St. James Community Garden provide daily oversight, but this should be supplemented. (Franklin Square is currently perceived as safer than Blackstone Square.)
3. The adjacent Cathedral Public Housing Development suffers from high density and inadequate interior passive and active open spaces. The BRA should make every effort to designate the community gardens at East Brookline and St. James Streets as permanent public open space under the new open space zoning amendment. If designated, this site would require substantial redesign and grading to make it accessible for outdoor family gatherings for all Cathedral residents, as well as for gardeners. These plans should be coordinated with the Boston Housing Authority's plan for redesign of Cathedral.
4. The grassed area at the corner of East Newton and Harrison Avenue is currently a development parcel. While this area could be used to meet the future minimum open space requirements of the South End, it is probably better used to meet the housing needs of South End residents.

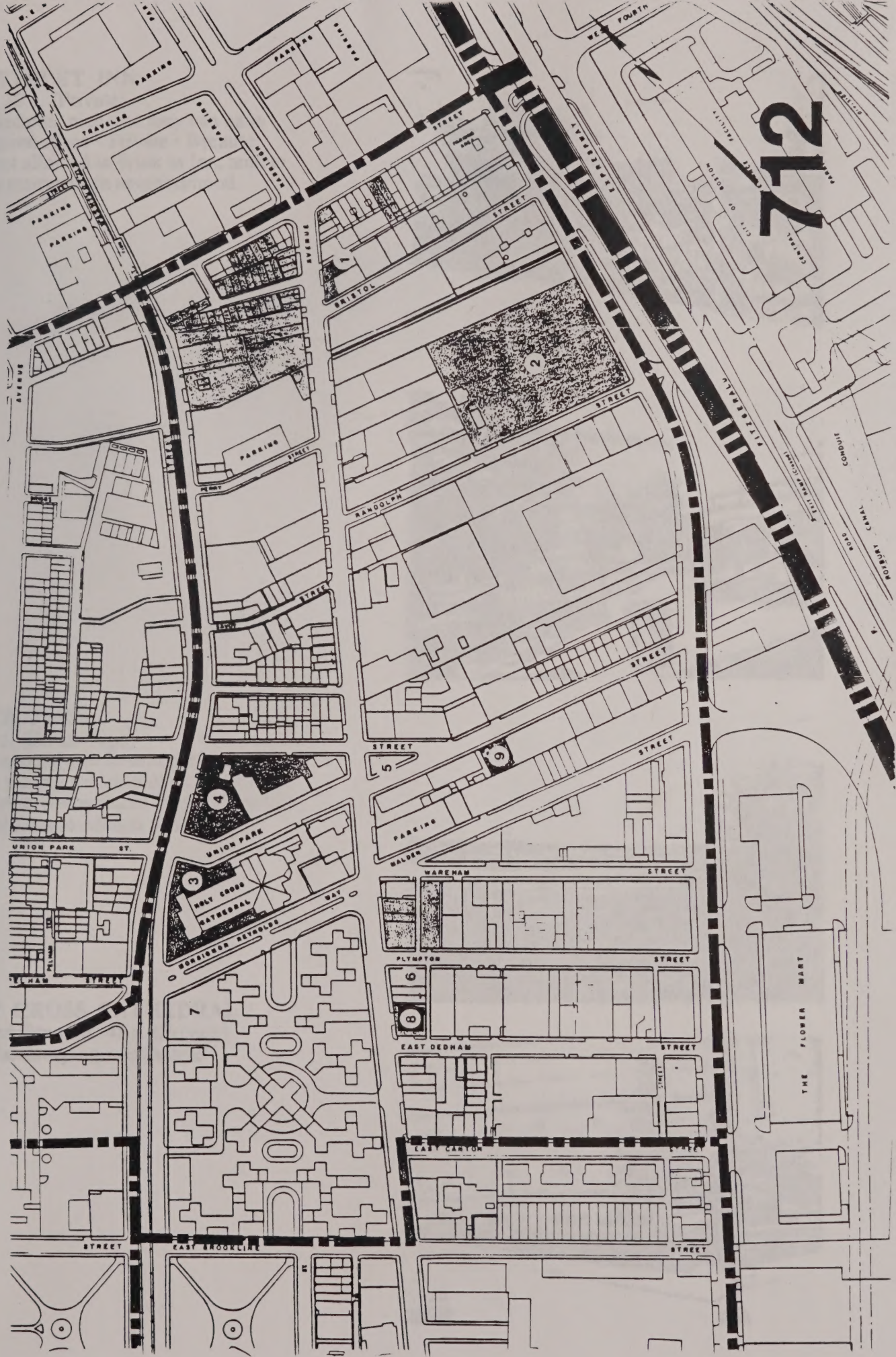


CENSUS TRACT 712

Including Bradford-Shawmut, Cathedral

Total Persons	1,186	Permanent Public Open Space	
0-5 years old	8%	(Includes schoolyard play areas, plazas, squares, parks, totlots, playgrounds, and totlots, plazas and seating areas in public housing developments)	3.48 AC
5-14	19%		
15-19	12%		
20-34	23%		
35-54	19%		
55-64	7%	Schoolyards (Primarily parking)	0.00 AC
65+	11%		
Persons 19 and under	39%		3.48 AC
Persons over 55	18%		
Total Households	376	Undesignated Public Open Space	
Persons per household	2.89	(Includes community gardens and interim use parks/courts)	.22 AC
Per capita income	\$3,555		
Individuals living below poverty level	38.2%	Interim Use Only	
Families living below poverty level	41.4%	(Includes D.P.W. right-of-way)	0.00 AC
Ethnicity by household		Semi-Private Parks/Courts	
White	31%	(Not open to the public)	1.14 AC
Black	38%		
Asian	1%		
Spanish Origin	30%		
Other	0%		
Language other than English spoken at home	43%		
No access to car	29%		
Total Housing Units	606		
Occupied Units	62%		
Vacant Units	38%		
Owner-occupied	8%		
Renter-occupied	92%		

712



1. PINE STREET INN

Courtyard .10 a. (Private)

(C) For residents, nice that they can have their own green space • Private • Because homeless not allowed to drink in Inn, tend to hang out in stairwells in neighborhood.



2. ROTCH PARK

Park 2.79 a. (Parks Dept.)

(C) Used extensively in summer and on weekends, mainly for softball • Lots of trash and rats; neglected by Parks Dept • Homeless sleep in field house; should be locked.



3. HOLY CROSS CATHEDRAL

Landscaped Grounds .42 a. (Private)

(C) Nice landscaping • Attractive.



4. CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Schoolyard .62 a. (Private)

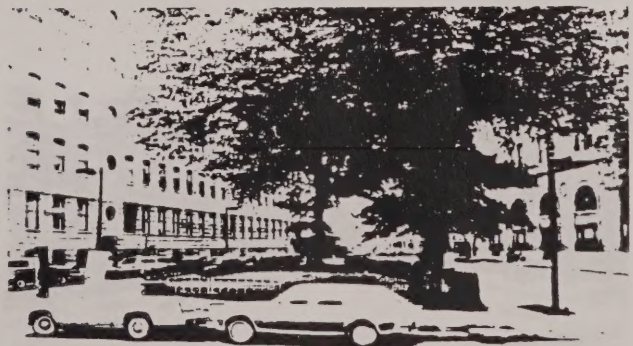
(C) They definitely need large open space areas to play in.



5. WALTHAM SQUARE

Square .06 a. (Parks Dept.)

(C) Not used; fence broken • Motorcycles parked there • Need for handicap ramp • Park junked up, would be good to fix it up for senior citizens at St. Helena's.



6. PLIMPTON ST. SPRAY POOL

Wading pool .09 a. (Parks Dept.)

(C) Should be cleaned up and repaired, made usable • Wading area definitely needed and wanted • Look at popularity of Christian Science Center.



7. CATHEDRAL HOUSING

Lawn on Msgr. Reynolds Way .32 a. (Parks Dept.)

(C) grassy area with a few trees · no play equipment

Paved Areas (BHA)

(C) No place for children to play · No grass · Kids play on asphalt (often covered with glass)

• Parents will not allow kids to go by themselves to Franklin Square- too many drugs there.



8. HARRISON / PLIMPTON GARDEN

Community Garden .22 a. (BRA with gardeners)

Portion of parcel 54

(C) Gardeners like raising their own flowers, vegetables · South End definitely needs more garden space; people afraid they may lose this one · "The gardens are beautiful; they take great care of them" · Problem of people stealing vegetables · Would love to see swimming pool restored; wooden fence needs fixing.



9. UNION PARK ST. PLAY AREA

Playground, Seating Area .22 a. (Parks Dept.?)

Not included in original questionnaire •
Derelict basketball court, seating and play equipment.



OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY RESIDENTS

A teacher at Cathedral High says she has her lunch on the school's steps. Wishes she had a park-like setting to enjoy her lunch hour nearby.

Definitely need more community gardens. There are long waiting lists.

Need pool, playground for kids. Kids play on asphalt, problems of glass. No grass.

Need community to take pride, be involved in their neighborhood. Too many are apathetic.

Parks should be locked to keep vagrants out; give keys to those in neighborhood.

At Cathedral Housing Project they have nowhere for kids to play, only asphalt walks. Problem of kids having nowhere to go creates vandalism, playing in fire hydrants, etc.

Toddlers have too far to go (Cathedral).

No grass in sight.

Need more grassy areas.

This neighborhood is in such a transition, it feels like nothing is permanent.

Two lots on Waltham & Washington Streets not used.

We need more parks, but who will maintain them?

Extreme vandalism at night.

More affordable housing is needed in the South End.

OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Nicosia Real Estate Development:

"Existing spaces not adequately used. More housing is needed."

Pine Street Inn:

Shack on Rotch Playground should be condemned; attracts homeless to sleep in it.

Cathedral Grammar School:

Need more playing fields, playgrounds in neighborhood.

South End definitely needs more open space, especially playgrounds.

Cathedral High School:

They use Randy Field and fields by Gillette because they have no fields on property.

South End needs more open space, primarily playgrounds, flower gardens, and sitting areas.

Holy Cross Cathedral:

South End needs more trees, flowers.

Need to find a way to create feeling of ownership so people will better maintain areas.

St. Helena's House:

Nice walking areas would be great for elderly population; there are a lot of elderly in the area.

Cathedral Public Housing Development Task Force:

Need more parks; too crowded here.

Cathedral Senior Lounge:

Need more open space, more convenient, closer for elderly residents.

Need more urban gardens.

Need low income housing first, as opposed to more open space.

Census Tract 712:

Almost 40% of the population of this census tract are below the age of 19, and almost 20% are above the age of 55. More than 40% of its families live in poverty. In light of these figures, this census tract should have more high quality public open space available to residents than any other census tract in the South End. Of the existing total permanent public open space of 3.48 acres, Rotch Playground, now used primarily for formal league sports activities, accounts for 2.79 acres, leaving only .69 acres. The remaining open space is comprised of an unusable wading pool (.09 acres), and an asphalted area covered with glass (.32 acres), leaving only .28 acres of usable open space for the entire population.

This part of the South End badly needs additional permanent open space, especially for children.

Recommendations:

1. Restore the Plimpton Street play area (and wading/spray pool if possible) as a high quality play space for young children. Create traffic "bumps" to slow traffic at this juncture of Harrison Avenue to protect children.
2. Designate the community garden at Harrison Avenue and Plimpton Street as permanent public open space through the BRA's new open space zoning amendment. Support the gardeners in their efforts to secure funding to upgrade the edge of the garden and to create a passive seating area and flower garden for the enjoyment of non-gardening Cathedral residents.
3. Negotiate with industrial, commercial, and institutional neighbors of the Cathedral Public Housing Development to ensure that Cathedral residents enjoy to the greatest possible extent green, functional edges. (The latter suggestion is consistent with the original intent of the Urban Renewal Plan of 1965.)
4. Explore the upgrading of Waltham Square: Improve access for persons with handicaps, and increase maintenance to ensure use by senior citizens and residents of St. Helena's.
5. Reclaim and maintain the "lost" basketball court and playground at Union Park Street. Encourage Cathedral High School students and others to use this space. (If no one is interested in this space as currently sited, explore the feasibility of development as a "trade" for more open space elsewhere, or the possibility of development on this parcel.)
6. Though Rotch Playground is extremely well used for league sports, every effort should be made to develop it for other complementary recreational activities. Future use of the Field House should be assessed. If it is not included in the plan for capital improvement by the Parks and Recreation Department it should be removed as a safety hazard.



804

CENSUS TRACT 804

Including Northampton Crosstown Industrial

Total Persons	1,679
0-5 years old	12%
5-14	22%
15-19	16%
20-34	23%
35-54	18%
55-64	5%
65+	3%

Persons 19 and under	50%
Persons over 55	8%

Total Households	530
Persons per household	3.15
Per capita income	\$4,350

Individuals living below poverty level	31.0%
Families living below poverty level	29.1%

Ethnicity by household	
White	3%
Black	92%
Asian	0%
Spanish Origin	5%
Other	0%

Language other than English spoken at home	8%
No access to car	19%

Total Housing Units	654
Occupied Units	81%
Vacant Units	12%
Owner-occupied	0%
Renter-occupied	100%

Permanent Public Open Space

(Includes schoolyard play areas, plazas, squares, parks, totlots, playgrounds, and totlots, plazas and seating areas in public housing developments)

.25 AC

Schoolyards (Primarily parking)

0.00 AC

.25 AC

Undesignated Public Open Space

(Includes community gardens and interim use parks/courts)

0.00 AC

Interim Use Only

(Includes D.P.W. right-of-way)

.93 AC

Semi-Private Parks/Courts

(Not open to the public)

.26 AC

Please Note: Census tract 804 extends beyond the boundaries of the South End Planning District. The population statistics are given for the whole census tract but the open space acreage is calculated South End only.

WASHINGTON

THORNDIKE

NEWCOMB

EAST LENOX

NORTHAMPTON

STREET

AVENUE

HARRISON

4

3

1

2

FELLOWS

RANDALL STREET

ALBANY

STREET

STREET

804

CHADWICK ST

NEEDS CT

TRUMAN

WILSON CT

1. EMMANUEL MEMORIAL HOUSE

Courtyard, Playground .03 a. (Private)

No one interviewed was familiar with this space • Derelict swing set and planting areas.



2. MANDELA COURT HOUSING

Temp. Park .03 a. (DPW, maintenance)

DPW, maintenance, maintenance, maintenance

Damage for this space

(C) Not used • Much maintenance for

nothing happens there



2.

MANDELA/WILLARD/WESTMINSTER HOUSING

Courtyard, Play area .25 a. (Housing Develop. Mgmt.)

No comments gathered • Residential courtyard and play area • Primarily asphalt.



3. ROSIE'S PLACE

Courtyard .23 a. (Private)

(C) Private, well kept • Nice wrought-iron fence • Needs to improve gardens in the back.



4. MELNEA CASS BLVD.

Temp. Park .93 a. (D.P.W. right-of-way; D.P.W. maintained) (included in 5.31 total acreage for Blvd. open space)

(C) Not used • Nicely landscaped, but nothing happens there.



OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Jane Rainsford, Rosie's Place:

They use Digital softball fields.

Melnea Cass Blvd. space not used.

Stride Rite Shoe Warehouse:

They have their own day care center for their employees and community (45-50 kids). Also have a playground that their day-care center uses, and which Headstart (Albany St. Project) uses. This area is fenced off, and the high security has kept vandalism down.

Employees just commute in and out, do not use other spaces in the neighborhood.

Census Tract 804:

50% of the population of this census tract are under the age of nineteen. Almost 30% of its families live in poverty. However, aside from the temporary open space along Melnea Cass Boulevard, and small, semi-private play areas associated with subsidized housing units, the census tract is deficient in permanent, high quality, easily accessible public open space.

While Derby/Ramsey Park is located nearby, it is now practically unusable for most children. Even under the best of circumstances, Derby/Ramsey Park cannot provide facilities for all age groups and all children in the area at all times. Therefore, every effort must be made to secure additional public open space in or near this census tract, particularly for smaller children.

Many of the residents of this census tract do not reside in the study area (and live across Melnea Cass Boulevard to the south). However, all residents of the census tract appear to be equally underserved by public recreational and open space.

While Digital provides a semi-public softball field nearby and StrideRite contains a day-care center for its employees and some community residents, these spaces are not sufficient to meet the overall needs of the census tract.

Recommendations:

1. If at all feasible, primary consideration should be given to a mass-transit tunnel under the D.P.W.'s right-of-way along Melnea Cass Boulevard, preserving as a permanent open space the temporary green strip and bicycle path.
2. In general, additional open spaces should be provided in the form of tot lots, community gardens, basketball courts, and other active, "defensible" facilities in conjunction with development of the Crosstown Industrial Park, if at all feasible.



805

CENSUS TRACT 805

Including United Neighbors, Roxse, Lenox-Camden, Cooper Community

Total Persons 4236

0-5 years old	8%
5-14	19%
15-19	10%
20-34	29%
35-54	19%
55-64	6%
65+	8%

Persons 19 and under 37%

Persons over 55 14%

Total Households 1,724

Persons per household 2.46

Per capita income \$4,229

Individuals living below poverty level 29.8%

Families living below poverty level 26.3%

Ethnicity by household

White	2%
Black	92%
Asian	0%
Spanish Origin	6%
Other	0%

Language other than English spoken at home 13%

No access to car 26%

Total Housing Units 1,855

Occupied Units 94%

Vacant Units 6%

Owner-occupied 5%

Renter-occupied 95%

Permanent Public Open Space

(Includes schoolyard play areas, plazas, squares, parks, totlots, playgrounds, and totlots, plazas and seating areas in public housing developments)

6.59 AC

Schoolyards (Primarily parking)

0.00 AC

6.59 AC

Undesignated Public Open Space

(Includes community gardens and interim use parks/courts)

.78 AC

Interim Use Only

(Includes D.P.W. right-of-way)

2.29 AC

Semi-Private Parks/Courts

(Not open to the public)

.19 AC

Please Note: Census tract 805 extends beyond the boundaries of the South End Planning District. The population statistics are given for the whole census tract but the open space acreage is calculated South End only.

305



1. LENOX-KENDALL GARDEN

Community Garden .30 a. (BRA, maint. by gardeners)

Portions of parcels 23a and 20

(R) Well kept • Looks good • Full to capacity
• Used a lot • "Garden is actively used" • Is the size and use of this space best for that site?
• Used mostly by senior residents of Lenox-Casmden and Roxse families.



2. WARWICK ST.

Basketball and fire pit area .05 a. (Privately owned)

Derelict and vacant lot with community fireplace and basketball hoop.



3. BESSIE BARNES MEMORIAL GARDEN

Community Garden .15 a. (BRA, maint. by gardeners)

Portion of parcel X-26

(C) Well kept • Used primarily by elderly •
Need more spaces • Need to mulch walkways •
People like to sit there • 6' fence keeps down
vandalism • Used actively • Needs fencing
repair, water improvements • Replace signage •
General upkeep needed.



4. BESSIE BARNES MEMORIAL FLOWER GARDEN

Flower garden .07 a. (BRA/ Private lot in middle maintained by neighborhood) Parcels SE-90, RD-20, RR-22

Not included in original questionnaire •
Memorial garden, attractive to passersby • Not usually open.



5. TOT LOTS AT LENOX-CAMDEN

Tot lots .74 a. (Housing Development Management)

(C) Two spray pools and concrete play area • Problem of fear caused by drug dealing • Problem of cars driving through - big safety problem • Needs lighting.



6. TOT LOTS AT ROXSE HOUSING

(C) Tot lots .13 a. (Housing Develop. mgmt.)

Five tot lots that need to be redesigned • Not well used.



7. UNITED NEIGHBORS OF LOWER ROXBURY TOT LOT

Tot lot and seating area .12 a. (D.P.W / Parks Dept.)

Not included in original questionnaire • New tot lot provided by Melnea Cass construction • Well used, well designed.



8. UNITED NEIGHBORS OF LOWER ROXBURY GARDEN

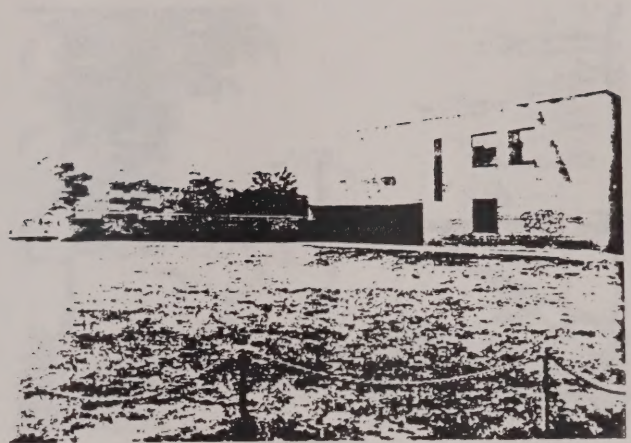
(Community Garden .30 a. (DPW/ maintained by gardeners)

(C) Looks good • Full to capacity; actively used. • May be in jeopardy due to D.P.W. right-of-way.



9. COOPER COMMUNITY CENTER

Tot lot (and lawn) .19 a. (Semi-private)
(C) Problem of drug dealing • Broken swings, broken glass • Constant vandalism from teens hanging out at Ramsey; break through fence • Need high security, higher fence • Kids at Cooper Day Care Center cannot use playground because it has been so vandalized and is so full of glass, so use Conway Playground near Northeastern • Need help from the Parks Dept. to help them secure playground (It is adjacent Ramsey that seems to attract vandals).



10. RAMSEY PARK

(C) Park 5.53 a. (Parks Dept.)
Lots of teens and young adults "hanging out" • Fairly well kept • Big problem of glass and drugs • Basketball court used a lot • No place for young kids to play • Nice to have such a large open space • Needs fencing, lighting.



11. FREDERICK DUNLAP SQUARE

Paved square .19 a. (Parks Dept.)
Frederick Dunlap Square is a paved square located in the center of the city. It is a large, open area with a paved surface and some trees. It is used for various activities and is a popular spot for people to walk and relax.



11. MELNEA CASS BLVD.

Temporary Park 2.29 a. (included in 5.31 total average open space Blvd.) (D.P.W. right-of-way)

(C) Not used • So much space is wasted, flowers should be grown • Amount of traffic going by deters use • Nicer since has been cleaned up • Not used for anything • Area from Shawmut to Tremont should be redesigned to encourage active use.



12. CABOT ST. GARDEN

Park .08 a. Portion of parcel X-26

Not in original questionnaire. Gardened by several local senior citizens.



13. FREDERICK DOUGLASS SQUARE

Paved square .04 a. (BRA/ Friends of Frederick Douglass Square) Parcel P-11
Historic square • Symbolic heart of Lower Roxbury • Often used for commercial parking.



OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY RESIDENTS

Kids, especially younger ones, need more playgrounds and safe open areas to play. The existing open space would meet the needs of the South End residents if it were better designed and managed. Need commitment from the community to maintain the spaces. Cass Blvd. would be used if the berms were removed and its design reprogrammed to encourage active use, primarily an adventure playground for kids.

It might be possible to utilize existing internal spaces at Lenox-Camden Housing. Smaller spaces would create more sense of community, as opposed to creating one new large open space that will attract drug users and "hanging out."

Bessie Barnes Community Garden could possibly promote a more profitable cottage industry by building a year-round greenhouse there.

Space along Melnea Cass from Washington to Shawmut should be used.

What is being done with space across from Lenox - Kendall on Tremont St.?

Some problems with vandalism at night in the garden.

Please save community gardens. "If they take this garden, you might as well shoot me." (Retired resident.)

OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Cooper Community Center:

Existing open space is not well used (especially Melnea Cass Blvd.)

Need a high security playground.

Need more organized athletics.

There are lots of little kids in the neighborhood, so play equipment should be put in Ramsey Memorial for them to use.

United Neighbors of Lower Roxbury:

They need more spaces for gardens; all gardens in area are full.

Census Tract 805:

This census tract contains most of Lower Roxbury's population. More than 37% of the population is under 19 years of age; 14% are senior citizens; almost 30% of individuals live in poverty; 95% are tenants.

Of the 6.59 acres of public open space, Derby/Ramsey Park represents 5.5 acres, and most of that acreage is in courts and ball fields. This park has historically been difficult to impossible for young children and seniors to use safely. Carter Playground, nearby, represents another important open space resource for the neighborhood. Small semi-public recreational spaces are located in conjunction with multifamily housing units, but these spaces are often badly in need of repair.

Lower Roxbury has, since urban renewal clearance, lacked visual coherence and a sense of place. The community's densely populated public and subsidized housing developments provide a critical housing stock but are each internally oriented, tending to isolate their residents. Successful, community-building residential open space is lacking; the large-scale public open spaces occur at the edges of the neighborhood.

Open space could be used to provide a clear sense of community, complementing historic Frederick Douglass Square. For example, designation of the garden at Lenox, Kendall and Tremont Streets would, with appropriate landscaping and fencing, reflect the fabric of both the South End and the Highland Park in Roxbury, with a green, open park identifying a distinct portion of the community.

Recommendations:

1. Designate the Lenox-Kendall Community Garden as permanent open space through the BRA's open space zoning amendment. Continue landscaping of the parcel to provide a green border for the dense housing developments behind the parcel and a green view from the new multi-use Fredrick Douglass Plaza across the street. Provide additional public-access seating areas and a flower garden within the parcel. Support the South End Garden Project and local gardeners in securing funding for these improvements.
2. The United Neighbors Community Garden at Melnea Cass Boulevard may be part of the DPW's right-of-way. Every effort should be made to preserve this important open space for the neighborhood. Explore the feasibility of underground mass transit at this point in future transit planning. (The adjacent well-used tot lot may also be in jeopardy, as will the passive temporary green strip along Melnea Cass Boulevard in the event of future surface-grade transit development.)
3. In the context of SENHI Phase II, preserve as much as possible of the Bessie Barnes Memorial Community Garden, especially the southeast portion fronting on Warwick Street. If all of the garden can be preserved, plant trees along the northwest side to create a visual boundary from Tremont Street.
4. Assist Cooper Community Center in restoring use of its tot lot through improved maintenance, programming and security at Ramsey Park. Support Cooper Community Center in funding a more durable fence around the tot lot. Improve night-lighting at Ramsey Park, particularly at the Cooper Community Center and Lenox-Camden Development edges.

5. To ensure that the children and youth of this neighborhood have access to high quality recreational and open space facilities, the Parks and Recreation Department should be encouraged to staff Ramsey and the nearby Carter Playground. (This has already begun.)
6. To ensure that the semi-private courtyards and play areas of Lenox-Camden, Camfield and Roxse are available for use by residents, increase security and assistance by the Boston Police Department.



806

CENSUS TRACT 806

Including Saranac/Newcastle, Carter School/Playground

Total Persons 1,033

0-5 years old 9%
 5-14 30%
 15-19 13%
 20-34 21%
 35-54 17%
 55-64 5%
 65+ 4%

Persons 19 and under 52%

Persons over 55 9%

Total Households 328

Persons per household 3.15

Per capita income \$2,735

Individuals living below poverty level 51.1%

Families living below poverty level 57.0%

Ethnicity by household

White 4%
 Black 84%
 Asian 0%
 Spanish Origin 12%
 Other 0%

Language other than English spoken at home 20%

No access to car 34%

Total Housing Units 397

Occupied Units 83%

Vacant Units 17%

Owner-occupied 0%

Renter-occupied 100%

Permanent Public Open Space

(Includes schoolyard play areas, plazas, squares, parks, totlots, playgrounds, and totlots, plazas and seating areas in public housing developments)

5.02 AC

Schoolyards (Primarily parking)

0.00 AC

5.02 AC

Undesignated Public Open Space

(Includes community gardens and interim use parks/courts)

0.00 AC

Interim Use Only

(Includes D.P.W. right-of-way)

.54 AC

Semi-Private Parks/Courts

(Not open to the public)

.08 AC

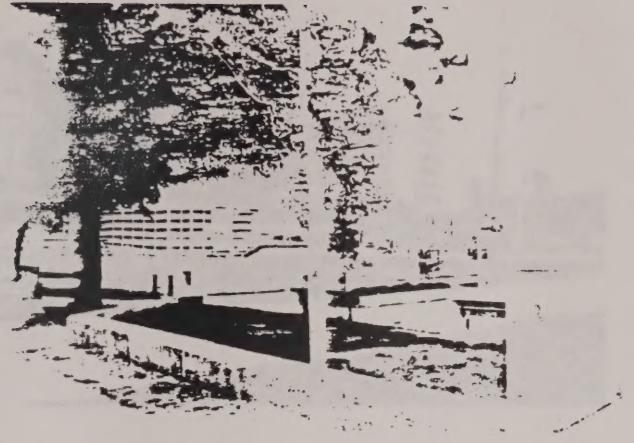
Please Note: Census tract 806 extends beyond the boundaries of the South End Planning District. The population statistics are given for the whole census tract but the open space acreage is calculated South End only.



1. CARTER PLAYGROUND

(C) Park 5.02 a. (Parks Dept.)

Like tennis courts • Nice since was redone • Used by many • Some complained about availability of nets - have to provide your own • Need someone to supervise courts • Well integrated ethnically • Adults play tennis • Teens play basketball • Used by older children • Like baseball fields • Had been large drug hangout • Tot lot well maintained • Baseball and tennis used a lot • Kept up by neighborhood • Having to provide own tennis nets deters drug activity, people just hanging out - instead attracts those who are serious about tennis • Extensive program planned with Mass. Audubon, Children's Art Center • This will attract positive activity; full-time staff member will be there this summer 10 am to 8 pm to supervise kickball.



2. ST. CYPRIAN'S CHURCH

(C) Landscaped Grounds .08 a. (Private)
Benches used by young people.



3. MELNEA CASS BOULEVARD

(C) Temporary Park .54 a. (Included
in 5.31 total acreage Blvd. openspace.)
(D.P.W / Parks Dept.)
Nice to see green.



OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Northeastern University Planning Office:

They are greatly in need of space and are in the process of doing a master plan. The problem is that there is a very limited amount of available space near them. They would be willing to share space, ball fields with other institutions. The students right now use the Fens for passive recreation as well as for softball, frisbee, and jogging. They are in need of basketball courts and softball, football fields.

St. Cyprian's Church:

Problem of safety in most existing open spaces. Need police to walk through.
Fear for safety is main deterrent for elderly and parents.

Census Tract 806:

This census tract (which extends beyond the South End boundary in a sliver along Columbus Avenue and includes the Whittier Street Public Housing Development) is bordered on one side by the new Southwest Corridor. It will become substantially more dense with completion of Frederick Douglass Plaza and development of Parcel 18. It also contains the finest multi-use park in the South End, Carter Playground. Carter Playground also represents the only permanent public open space in the census tract.

Currently, more than 52% of the population are persons under the age of 19; 51% of individuals live in poverty. A full 100% of the population rents; and 34% do not have access to a car.

Recommendations:

1. Ensure access to high quality recreational and open space facilities for neighborhood residents, particularly youths, through skilled adult supervision and programming at Carter Playground by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department. (This has begun.)
2. Encourage use of the new nearby Southwest Corridor Park through programming and outreach by the MDC.
3. Encourage use of the new Orange Line's easy access to such recreational and open space facilities as the Arnold Arboretum and Franklin Park through publicity by the MBTA.
4. Ensure a variety of recreational and open space opportunities to residents through access to facilities in nearby census tracts, including community gardens and passive parks.
5. Encourage developers of now-vacant parcels or of rehabilitated units to provide both interior and publicly-accessible open spaces, as feasible, as part of their development plans.

APPENDIX

The Community Gardens of the South End

Beginning in 1976, partly as a result of the City of Boston's vacant lot reclamation "Revival" program and partly through the work of volunteers and community-based organizations, community gardens began to appear on vacant lots throughout the South End.

The gardens were a response to a confluence of recent events: a sudden rise in food prices following the energy crisis of the mid-1970's; the tension and sense of disintegration which gripped the city during the busing crisis; the growing numbers of South End residents recently arrived from more rural backgrounds; and the fact that the lots had been lying vacant, neglected, and covered with trash, scrap metal and broken glass for too many years.

At this time, one of Boston's least proud moments in history, a community gardening movement began in the South End which soon spread to other neighborhoods, seeking to bring people together across racial, generational, cultural and neighborhood boundaries.

Inspired by the work of Augusta Bailey of the Roxbury-North Dorchester Beautification Program, supported by then-State Representative Mel King and the South End Project Area Committee (SEPAC), and with substantial assistance from the BRA's South End site office staff, the Metropolitan District Commission, the National Guard, and United South End Settlements, eight community gardens were created with few conventional resources. The soil was donated by the MDC, trucked into Boston by the National Guard, and delivered to sites cleared and fenced by BRA contractors. Tools donated by USES and wielded by senior citizens and children spread the soil from dawn to dusk until it was smooth enough to divide into family plots. During the summer of 1976, SEPAC sponsored an employment training program which helped to organize the community gardens and assisted their senior and junior constituents in laying out paths and borders. In the fall of 1976 the informal group organized as a non-profit organization, the South End Garden Project, Inc.

The South End Garden Project was responsible for creation of the gardens at: 1) Lenox-Kendall Street and 2) Saranac-Newcastle in Lower Roxbury; 3) East Brookline-St. James Street and 4) Harrison Ave.-Plimpton Street bordering the Cathedral Public Housing Development; 5) West Dedham and Shawmut Avenue for residents of Torre Unidad at IBA; 6) Tent City (now developed); 7) the Salvation Army's Harbor Light Center/IBA (now developed); 8) the "Gazebo Garden" at Rutland and Washington Streets and the adjoining garden at Haven Street and Shawmut Avenue.

The Public Facilities Department, working with considerably more resources, had initiated a concurrent garden creation program in which contractors produced essentially "finished," community gardens. This program was responsible for the creation of the 9) Berkeley Street, 10) United Neighbors, 11) Warwick Street and 12) West Springfield Street Community Gardens.

The Worcester Street and Warren Avenue Community Gardens were created independently by neighborhood residents several years later and received some assistance from Boston Urban Gardeners using a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Today there are twelve community gardens in the South End, serving more than 400 residents, their families and neighbors, totalling 3.74 acres, (two having been lost to

development). In addition, Titus Sparrow Park and the Southwest Corridor together provide an additional 77 garden plots. Two small gardens, at Saranac and Newcastle on Columbus Avenue and one at IBA on the corner of West Dedham Street and Shawmut Avenue, have been secured as permanent open space. The other gardens are all sited on BRA-owned land and are vulnerable to development pressures. Each of the community gardens is unique. Together, they reflect the cultural richness, diversity and spirit of cooperation of the South End itself.

During debate on the proposed SENHI Program, the ad hoc Affordability Coalition of South End residents and organizational leaders, calling for two-thirds low and moderate income housing on BRA-owned development parcels, also came out in support of permanent designation for community gardens. Byron Rushing, the South End's elected State Representative, also supported the permanence of the gardens.

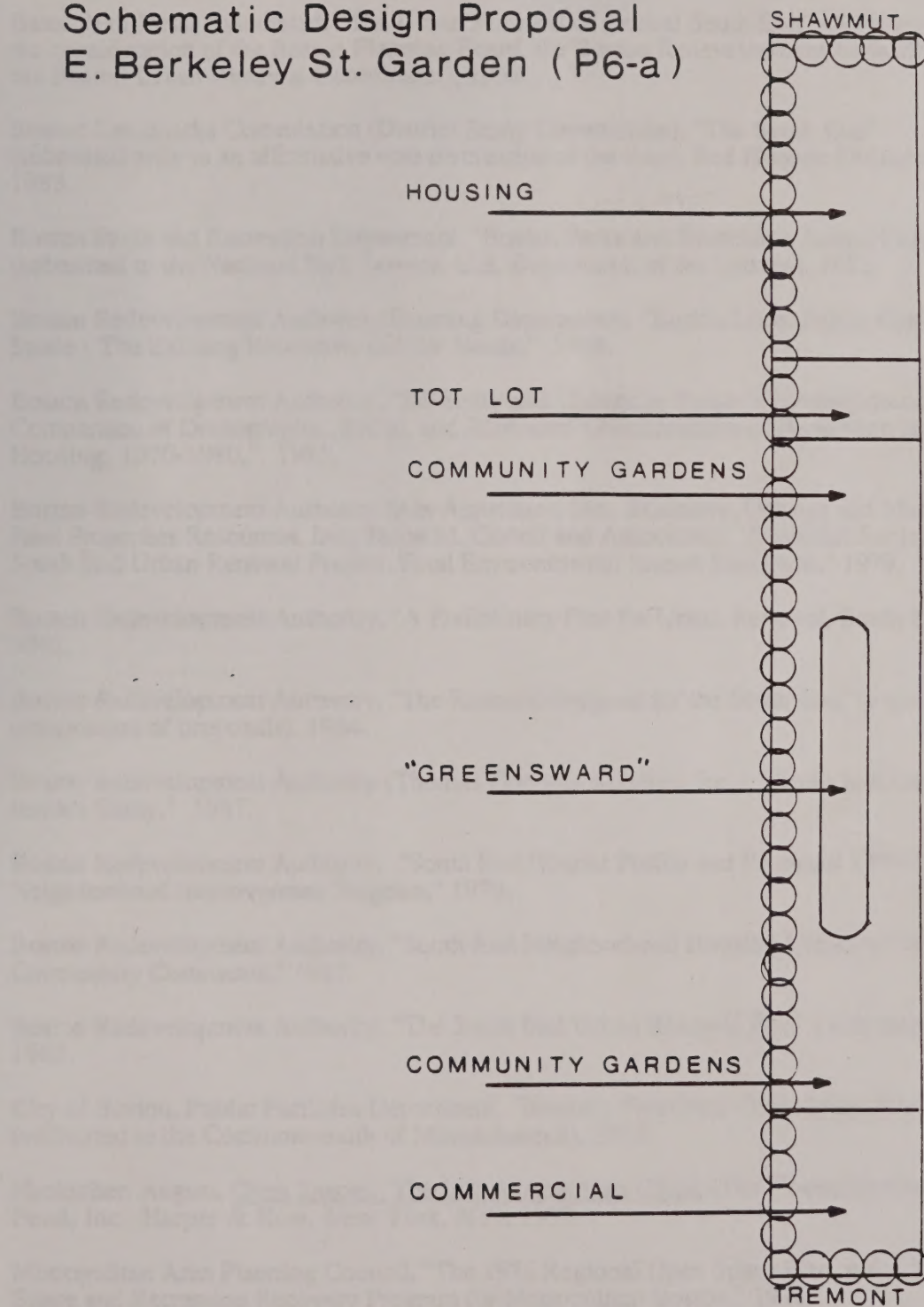
It should be noted that the community gardens are used primarily by low and moderate income senior citizens and overwhelmingly by tenants. These spaces provide a way for people who would otherwise have limited access to active recreation or expression of long-honed skills and cultural traditions to engage in outdoor, socially engaging activity.

The community gardens represent an important addition to the South End's open space inventory of passive parks, playgrounds, squares and tot lots. They also offer flexibility to current and future residents of the neighborhood. While community gardens today reflect the needs, skills and enjoyment of a significant portion of the community, they also present a way for the community to respond to new needs. If, in the future, community gardening were less attractive to area residents, these critically located parcels could be combined with, or converted to a more varied inventory of types of recreational and passive open space than currently exists in the South End. These could include areas of special cultural, historic or artistic significance (e.g. Plaza Betances and its mural at IBA), spaces designed specifically for intergenerational use (e.g. a tot lot combined with a community garden adjacent to senior housing), or portions of sites reserved for special events, local vendors or water features (e.g. several community gardens in New York have large seating areas and adjacent white painted blank walls where community residents can gather to watch films; others have spray pool areas). This kind of flexibility would greatly increase the potential for a high quality of life and additional control over the environment for South End residents, particularly for those living in housing without private yards.

We strongly urge the BRA to refrain from developing the community gardens of the South End with an eye toward the future quality of life of South End residents.

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Appendix 13

City of Boston Draft Open Space Plan (1/92)

OPEN SPACE PLAN AND THE BOSTONIAN

BOSTON
OPEN SPACE

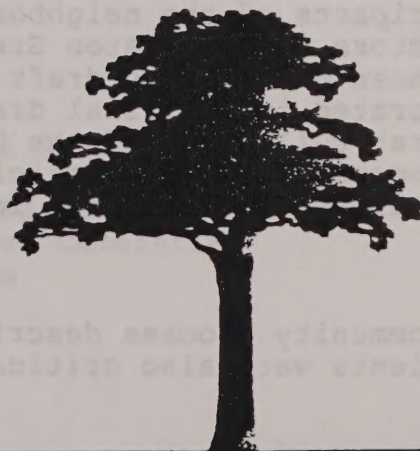


THE CITY OF BOSTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

groups, sports and recreation groups, and other community groups. Almost 300 people gathered on a Saturday morning, on a cold day in February, 1981. They participated in workshops and listened to city officials and other citizens speak in the plenary sessions. The in-house planning staff took notes in the workshops and the plenary sessions. The staff of the Mayor's Office, as well as the staff of the various city departments, were also present. The staff of the Mayor's Office, as well as the staff of the various city departments, were also present.

OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR THE NEIGHBORHOODS

BOSTON OPEN SPACE



RAYMOND L. FLYNN, MAYOR

groups, sports and recreation groups, and other constituencies, invitations were sent out. Almost 300 people gathered on a bitterly cold Saturday morning, on the three-day Presidents' Birthday weekend in February, 1991. . They participated in workshops and listened to city officials and other citizens speak in the plenary sessions. While the Regional Administrators and Senior Managers facilitated, the in-house planning staff took notes in the workshops and the plenary sessions. The gist of these ideas, we hope, have been incorporated throughout this document.

At the Congress, the next stage of community involvement was announced. This was the the more decentralized phase. Meetings were held in each of the neighborhoods, and for each of the citywide special topics. This allowed more concentrated attention on specific issues in smaller segments of the city's total open space system.

Notices of the neighborhood meeting were posted in prominent locations throughout the neighborhood, the local newspapers were notified of the meetings, and the Regional Administrators made phone and personal contacts with key constituents. The meetings were conducted in a less structured format than the Open Space Congress. This allowed more self-generated discussion and agenda-setting by participants. The results of these discussions are shown in the section for each neighborhood.

The third stage for community involvement was the review and comment phase. Preliminary drafts of the neighborhood sections and the general introduction to the neighborhoods chapter were distributed to participants of the neighborhood meetings. Members of the Board of Directors of the Boston GreenSpace Alliance also received a copy of these preliminary draft sections. The comments received were incorporated into a final draft version. As the fourth stage, the first full draft of the Open Space Plan was distributed to neighborhood meeting participants, as well as to a wider neighborhood audience of community leaders and active citizens.

In addition to the community process described above, the following two ingredients were also critical to the planning process.

CITY OF BOSTON
OPEN SPACE PLAN

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DRAFT

January 10, 1992

OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR THE NEIGHBORHOODS

INTRODUCTION

Each neighborhood of the city has distinctive open space opportunities based on its topography, physical development, cultural makeup, and history. Similarly, each neighborhood has worked to create a series of priorities for its locality. There are, however, themes which we found to be common in all neighborhoods. The purpose of this introduction is to present these common themes in one place. It also provides a place to highlight city policy approach toward these common themes.

For the purposes of this plan, the department is planning for the larger open space system, of which the park system is the significant part. Each neighborhood must have an adequate number of a variety of facilities, such as ball diamonds, soccer and football fields, tennis and basketball courts, and tot lots, but it is not necessary that each playground contain all programmed sports. The open space system includes urban wilds, community gardens, and cemeteries in the inventory which are ensured some degree of public access through public ownership or easements on privately-owned parcels. The open space system also includes institutional lands, private estates, and public lands held for other purposes. While it is impossible to include private properties in the open space inventory, they provide significant opportunities for use and/or acquisition.

Capital Improvements

Several neighborhoods expressed a need for further capital improvements to existing facilities. Often this involved the Parks Department's own capital improvement and capital program requests. Street tree planting and waterfront access were two other recurring neighborhood desires with capital planning implications.

Neighborhood Themes

Unmet demand

The community open space forums which were held throughout the spring and summer of 1991 made particular note of the need for soccer fields and practice fields which would not conflict with already established ball diamonds. The need was voiced for a net additional number of both soccer fields and ball diamonds, with appropriate practice space.

Demand was voiced throughout the city for specifically programmed spaces such as tennis courts, community gardens, fishing piers, street hockey courts, and tot lots.

Many neighborhoods that are currently or will be impacted by large scale development projects expressed concerns about impact on their existing open space and hopes for new open space resulting from the projects. Other neighborhoods were concerned about planning for a balance between future smaller scale development and more neighborhood open space.

Many neighborhoods wanted to take advantage of their untapped resources. Some were concerned with the vacant lands in their neighborhoods, seeing the need for balanced development for housing, commercial, industrial, and open space uses. Others were concerned with lack of access to the neighborhood's waterfront.

Several communities expressed interest in open spaces in private ownership for passive uses such as scenic enjoyment. The Parks Department will work with communities seeking the use and protection of these lands.

Capital rehabilitation

Several neighborhoods expressed a need for further capital improvements to existing parklands. Often this confirmed the Parks Department's own capital assessment and capital program requests. Street tree planting and waterfront access were two other recurrent neighborhood demands with capital planning implications.

Planning for maintenance and management

Keeping maintenance at current levels was consistently mentioned at the neighborhood meetings as priority one.

Management of security, such as better lighting, graffiti and vandalism prevention, and personal safety concerns, is a top neighborhood priority.

In response to the intensive use of such facilities, communities articulated a need for more intensive turf maintenance of ball diamonds, soccer fields, stadiums, and passive areas.

The planting and increased maintenance of street trees was demanded in each neighborhood, along with general streetscape improvements.

One management issue frequently cropping up in the neighborhoods was dogs. Unleashed dogs, prohibition from children's playlots, enforcement of regulations were all items eliciting strong neighborhood interest and controversy.

Citywide, communities felt that neighborhood playgrounds owned by the MDC were underutilized because of outmoded design, deteriorated equipment, poor maintenance, and lack of programming.

Assistance to community gardens such as trash removal and wood chip provision are already Parks Department services. Such issues as water service and additional garden space were voiced in the neighborhoods.

Public school yards were often seen as underused open space resources needing improvements to serve school and resident populations alike. They were described as barren, unrelentingly hard-surfaced, uninviting.

Several communities noted the need for more community involvement in their local parks. Park partnerships or adopt-a-park groups were frequently mentioned.

Regional parks, such as the Emerald Necklace and Franklin Park, were seen by several communities as a resource underutilized by its adjacent neighborhood(s). Among the reasons mentioned were security concerns, "turf" issues, derelict or unavailable facilities within the park, and the distance from home to the park. While to some extent underutilized, the neighborhood residents still felt pride in these properties, perceiving them as their "neighborhood park."

Several neighborhood noted the need to protect, maintain, and nurture their local urban wilds. The support for the efforts of the Boston Conservation Commission, the Parks Department with their maintenance and "Red Shirt" crews, and local groups such as the Boston Natural Areas Fund, the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and the Appalachian Mountain Club was evident.

Program/Education

A consistent observation from the neighborhood meetings was that the park partnership/adopt-a-park movement still has opportunities and untapped community energy for further growth. Several of these communities also expressed an interest in more youth programming in the parks. (Perhaps further efforts to develop intergenerational program models, where park partner groups work with youth groups, can work to their mutual advantage.)

Policy Approach: The Neighborhoods

The city plans for its park system and its open space by balancing the needs of the larger community. The Open Space Plan attempts to provide an equitable approach in balancing demand upon the Parks and Recreation Department and other city and state agencies for facilities and distributing capital and operating resources. As a plan for the city's open space system, it encompasses properties directly under its control, those under the control of other city and state agencies, and those in private ownership.

Unmet demand

In communities where significant demand for additional facilities is demonstrated, the city will explore all avenues to acquire new facilities or the use of alternative facilities.

Capital rehabilitation

The city will continue to address the remaining capital needs of the city park system through its capital assessment and planning program. Alternative funding sources, such as federal and state grants where available, will be actively pursued. As

budget priorities allow, greater emphasis on public shade tree planting and waterfront access in the neighborhoods will be pursued.

Planning for management and maintenance

The Parks Department will continue to improve its coordination work with the Police Department and the Municipal Police (PFD).

The city will develop a citywide graffiti removal plan. Graffiti removal and other dereliction will be removed on a priority basis. This will be coordinated with the Boston Youth Clean-Up Corps and neighborhood-based efforts.

Additional lighting of specific areas in parks with problems will be achieved through our lighting improvement program.

Maintenance levels established by the Parks Department during the implementation of the last five year plan will be maintained at current levels. Maintenance will continue to be the department's highest priority.

At a neighborhood level, the Parks Department will coordinate service delivery for trees. On larger streetscape or thoroughfare improvement projects, involving several city departments, the Parks Department will play a leadership role in tree planting in accord with the city's comprehensive tree policy. This will ensure long-term viability and maintenance of the trees.

The MDC needs to renew its commitment to urban neighborhood recreation. Capital rehabilitation of MDC facilities, and increased maintenance and programming, will provide opportunities to many Boston neighborhoods with unmet recreation needs.

The Parks Department should assume the management of large school campuses and White Stadium, which serve as neighborhood and regional parks, and coordinate their use with the School Department. This will require agreement on the cost to Parks for providing such services and School Department's ability to fund those costs. An investigation of the School Department's open space inventory will help determine where such spaces can feasibly be improved for the benefit of neighborhood users. This will be particularly important in areas with little or no open space resources close-to-home. The Parks Department and other city agencies will work with the Boston Greenspace Alliance initiative to improve schoolyards of the Boston public schools.

Assistance by the department in the maintenance of community gardens, as developed by a joint citizen-department committee, will be provided on an as-needed basis.

The department will help the Boston Housing Authority to institute a permanent landscape management training program for BHA maintenance staff. The pilot program in the spring/fall 1991 will be used as a model.

The Parks Department neighborhood work crews will incorporate publicly-protected urban wilds into the regular maintenance schedule.

A composting plan will be established and implemented over the next five years.

Boston Youth Clean-Up Corp will be instituted year-round to provide job training for youth.

The Parks Department's maintenance services are often called upon to provide services beyond the boundaries of its properties. The Department will investigate this diversion of its resources, the impact of this diversion on its own properties, and means by which such services can be properly accounted for in its budget.

Community involvement in planning

The Parks and Recreation Department is not and should not be the only agent for support or stewardship. The department's role is to involve the community in its work and promote the work of the community toward common goals. To the extent that the community can articulate its own specific goals and organize around them, the department's job in servicing needs is made more efficient.

Communities wishing to acquire new facilities for active use or lands for passive use (scenic, garden) must articulate their need to the department. The department will only pursue acquisition for increased facilities with the full backing of the neighborhood. An important criterion for acquisition will be a neighborhood commitment to a park partnership for the proposed park or open space site. (See acquisition in the Policy Goals section above.)

Communities which organize park partnerships to involve the neighborhood in a local playground or open space promote the overall health of the park. They are encouraged to formalize their relationship with the Parks Department through the Park Partners program.

Local neighborhoods are encouraged to organize task forces to work with the city's Superintendent of Tree Maintenance. Communities which organize task forces to involve the neighborhood in street trees promote the department's ability to address the overall neighborhood demand.

The Parks Department will work with communities which are experiencing difficulties in communicating with other agencies about open space.

Program/Education

With just over 100 sports fields and 3000 requests each year there is intensive use and competition for fields. Boston-based teams at regional facilities and neighborhood-based teams at local fields will be given priority for use.

Boston Park Rangers program in interpretation and enforcement will be increased, and expanded to include city-owned Urban Wilds under Parks or Conservation Commission jurisdiction. The Parks Department and other city agencies, as needed, will work with the Boston Greenspace Alliance's initiative on environmental education in the Boston public schools.

Bicycling and other trails will be encouraged in neighborhoods.

Boston Youth Cleanup Crew will be institutionalized, and provide training and long-term employment placement opportunities.

Continue sports skills training programs targeted to city youth such as sports camp, junior golf, and sailing.

Increase programs which provide passive recreation, gardening, environmental education, and other non-sport-related activities.

Target programs for user groups such as the elderly and youth.

Support the Boston Greenspace Alliance membership and others develop a multi-level menu of environmental education programs to ensure that all people in the community are introduced to the Park System, educated in basic environmental concepts, and sensitized to regulatory requirements of specific locations.

Continue and expand the provision of concerts, mobile programming units ("Fun-on-Wheels"), and leagues to increase neighborhood use of its parks.

Funding

*balance w/ fund-raising
needs open space/
community nonprofit*

The budget for the city park system is subject to approval by the City Council, and funding from year to year cannot be accurately projected. However, discussion of fiscal resource development will assume small decreases in the operating budget from present funding levels for the next two years and increased appropriations thereafter. The capital budget will likely assume a decrease in the coming years as the massive capital infusion of the past five years has restored the vast capital plant of the park system. An additional consideration is the need to reduce bond financing costs, an operating budget item.

The department will engage in a capital fundraising campaign to seek monies from state and federal grants, national corporations, and national foundations (i.e., outside Boston area).

The Department will continue to work directly with the Trust Office to assist communities in their efforts to seek funding from individual trusts for local park improvements. Using Copley Square as a model, we will also seek to establish trusts for individual parks to enable local donors to bequeath monies to favorite neighborhood parks.

A task force will be established to examine increased dedicated fees and revenues, and use of penalties from violators of environmental and park and recreation statutes and regulations.

Corporations which use the Boston Parks Department sports fields on a regular basis will be encouraged to give back the value that they take from that use.

Concessions in neighborhood field houses are encouraged to promote park partnerships and assist the Parks Department in management of facilities.

Fundraisers for individual programs within the department will be encouraged. Examples: Rangers, Urban Wilds, Historic Cemeteries.

Corporate sponsorship of neighborhood special events and programs will continue and grow.

CREATION OF FISCAL STABILITY

Historically and nationally, public parks and recreation budgets fluctuate with the cyclical nature of the public budgeting processes within a larger economic context. To minimize the effects of these boom and bust cycles, advocacy and active participation by the public must be consistent and coordinated. A variety of partnerships and volunteer programs on neighborhood, citywide and corporate levels shall continue to be developed in order to supplement and support annual budgetary allowances. A menu of alternative sources of income will be sought without overcommercializing or denying access to parkland and facilities.

- . Expand City of Boston Park Partners Program to include all groups which have a relationship of partnership or volunteerism associated with parks and open spaces in Boston.
- . Maximize corporate, foundation and federal grant support for programs and capital improvements.
- . Capitalize city park maintenance equipment to alleviate pressure on annual operating budgets.
- . Dedicate all fees and revenues collected in parkland for Parks Department use including proceeds from events management and net leases for facilities management such as golf courses.
- . Organize a volunteer program in the Parks Department that supports and expands the extensive network of athletic coaches, gardeners, environmentalists, partners, and parks and recreation activists.
- . Support the existing public and private programs dedicated to the care of specific areas of the park system such as the Adopt-a-Statue program, Ranger program and Neighborhood Tree Program. Encourage the creation of other public and private open space enhancement programs.

ACQUISITION

The Parks Commission will adopt an acquisition policy which will expand the open space inventory under its care, custody and control to:

- . respond to the demand for facilities,
- . protect scenic easements and establish buffer zones,
- . provide missing links in the open space system, and
- . protect existing natural and cultural resources.

Acquisition will be considered only when there is demonstrated community need, environmental and open space analysis indicates its inclusion in the city system, and a financial strategy provides for the long-term stewardship and maintenance of the proposed property.

- . Provide for general distribution a detailed written acquisition policy.
- . Given the strategic importance of open space in the economic growth process, advocate for the inclusion of open space concerns in land use decision-making in the city.
- . Coordinate with the city's BRA, Transportation Department and Department of Public Works and state and federal agencies on open space aspects of urban system projects, complementing and improving the existing system through public benefit packages and mitigation measures. Such activities include city building projects, publically and privately owned missing links, and vacant parcels for open space.
- . Establish a yearly appropriation for open space acquisition.
- . Support the creation of land trusts and other innovative models to protect open space through fundraising and land banking, as well as to support existing groups like Boston Natural Areas Fund which are currently engaged in such activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The city must nurture both its economy and its environment in an interactive, complementary fashion. Cleaner waters, greener streets and parks, purer air, healthier natural ecosystems: this environmental development will result in a new city beautiful model. Such a model will make nature an integral part of urban development, complementing Boston's achievements in architecture and urban design. Enhancing the livability and quality of life in Boston's neighborhood and downtown environments will go hand-in-hand with improving their economic vitality. Such balanced development, both economic and environmental, will continue to put Boston in competitive advantage as a place to live and work.

- . Coordinate closely the work of the Environment Department and the Parks Department to solidify and fully articulate the city's voice on environmental issues. The Parks Department will work with the Environment Department to protect the integrity and responsibility of the legally mandated commissions, ensuring the fair and timely regulation of environmental and cultural resources. Such regulation will seek an optimal balance between environmental and economic values.
- . Review and analyze proposed plans and developments for environmental impact, with specific attention to open space impacts. For unavoidable impacts, work toward the most effective and feasible means of mitigating such impacts.
- . Establish a conservation, recycling, and composting program for the open space system.
- . Institute conservation land resource management within the Parks Department's practices, to enable the department to have the in-house capability to manage the natural resources of its Emerald Necklace parks and to be effective stewards of urban wilds.

EQUITABLE ACCESS AND EDUCATION

Parks and open spaces can provide something for everyone. To ensure this vision, physical design, programming and regulations have been and will continue to be undertaken to maximize the enjoyment of the open space system for Boston's residents and visitors.

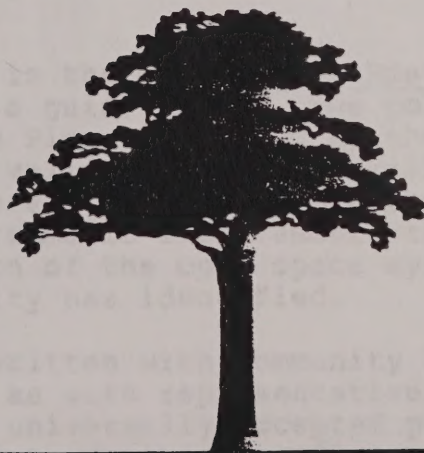
- . Protect and encourage universal access (public, special needs and social) to all public open spaces through design, education, and programming.
- . Improve signage and posted rules and regulations in order to establish a city-wide identification system for open space. Establish a policy for bilingual signage.
- . Expand and solidify interpretive services and programs, education, and enforcement of park rules and regulations through the Boston Park Ranger program.
- . Establish specific educational programs aimed at promoting safe and appropriate use of the park system for all age groups, with emphasis on the city's youth. Use mass media where possible to broadly communicate this message.
- . Expand environmental education programming through the Boston Park Rangers, non profit organizations and the city's school systems. The preservation and maintenance of the ecological integrity of the park system, and the education of the public on the importance of that integrity are priorities of the city open space system.
- . Provide equal access to park facilities through the equitable distribution of a broad range of facilities in the neighborhoods. Where neighborhoods experience a critical need, facilities should be secured through interagency and public/private negotiation. The City of Boston Grassroots program should be maintained and other similar programs encouraged in order to help provide equal access to open space resources.
- . Support the Boston Youth Clean-Up Corps and other city youth employment programs in order to provide annual summer and year-round jobs and vocational training to youth in public open spaces.

OPEN SPACE POLICY: AN AGENDA FOR THE 1990s

This policy statement for open space reflects the achievements of the city and of the community which have taken place in the last several years. With the complete rehabilitation of the city's open space system through the rigorous capital improvement program instituted by Mayor Flynn, and the resulting unprecedented increase in the use of Boston's parks by residents, the city is now in a position to expand its open space policy horizons.

OPEN SPACE POLICY: AN AGENDA FOR THE 1990s

BOSTON OPEN SPACE



RAYMOND L. FLYNN, MAYOR

OPEN SPACE POLICY: AN AGENDA FOR THE 1990s

This policy statement for open space reflects the achievements of the city and of the community which have taken place in the last several years. With the complete rehabilitation of the city's open space system through the rigorous capital improvements program instituted by Mayor Flynn, and the resulting unprecedented increase in the use of Boston's parks by residents, the city is now in a position to expand its open space policy horizons.

The policy emphasizes the need to enhance the physical resources and operational systems which are maintaining the current health of the open space system. Simultaneously, the policy looks to moving beyond traditional service delivery issues to sketch a larger vision which views open space as being a critical force in Boston's growth in the next decade. These goals stress the role of open space as a catalyst for economic development and are critical in conserving the natural resources of the city. The importance of clear-cut leadership is emphasized to consolidate the use and management of Boston's diverse open space systems.

The availability of a full range of open space facilities to every community and neighborhood is viewed as basic to assure the quality of life in the city, making a significant contribution to the economic well being of the city. The involvement of social service agencies and responsiveness to diversity is essential to the delivery of such amenities and services. The recognition of the social reality of the neighborhood is essential to determining who can benefit most and who is least well served. Community involvement and the development of an aggressive feedback system are key components.

The roadmap set forth in the Greening of Boston five years ago continues to serve as a guide today. The policy statements in the 1987 - 1991 Open Space Plan, published by the Mayor's Office of Capital Planning, are valid concepts and will be found in the reformulated policy here. Changes from either document reflect the physical and programmatic improvements that have already been achieved, the evolution of the open space system, and new directions that the city has identified.

This policy has been written with community leaders in the neighborhoods as well as with representatives of a broad range of citizen groups. As a universally accepted policy, it expresses a common agenda for efforts in the next five years. The policy statements which follow are organized in seven thematic areas. Each begins with a statement of approach and is followed with concrete goals to guide the implementation of the policy.

ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING RESOURCES

The citizens of Boston will continue to enjoy clean, safe and actively used parks. For the next five years the city will reinforce an expanded meaning of public open space--to encompass such resources as boulevards, medians, streetscapes, greenways, urban wilds, community gardens, cemeteries and the waterfront. The Parks and Recreation Department will work with others to maximize benefits of operating and capital funds to a consistent "standard of maintenance."

- . Complete the rehabilitation of the park system begun in the first five years.
- . Establish cycles for capital funding re-investment in the park system.
- . Implement turf management program for playground fields.
- . Inventory trees citywide and design a planting and maintenance program with the minimum goal to replenish the tree inventory as it dies off; coordinate with other agencies involved in tree care and longevity.
- . Strengthen the implementation of maintenance and operation plans for the Emerald Necklace park system.
- . Maintain historic and active cemeteries and city-owned urban wilds as part of the regular maintenance commitment of the Boston Parks Department.
- . Coordinate and cooperate with others concerning the maintenance of parkland and other open spaces not owned by the Parks Department such as school yards, community gardens, and planted medians.
- . Maintain facilities and resources at existing or improved levels.
- . Establish a training program which commits to the further development of a professional workforce and ongoing educational opportunity within it.
- . Coordinate state and city maintenance to mitigate effects of any "boom and bust" cycle.

CONSOLIDATION OF OPEN SPACE

The Parks Commission, the board determining the use and protection of open space in the city regardless of ownership, provides the city with the ability to create a coherent open space system. All public open space shall be coordinated in such a way as to maximize the benefits for the community-at-large.

- . Advocate the idea of a single open space system regardless of ownership or physical attributes.
- . Develop sub-system concepts similar to the Emerald Necklace, Southwest Corridor Park, and Harborwalk, which connect individual open spaces into a larger system. Such sub-systems may include bikeways, greenways, city gateways and boulevards, and hiking trails.
- . Convene an interagency committee to coordinate and connect the open space components of city projects.
- . Integrate cemeteries, urban wilds, streetscapes, community gardens, public housing open spaces, and major school campuses into mainstream parks operations and programming.
- . Consolidate all responsibility for city trees planting and maintenance under the Parks Department.
- . Embrace public policies and actions that are consistent with the city open space plan, such as existing agency area plans, zoning, conservation legislation, and easements.
- . Continue to consult, through Parks Department professional staff (horticulture, landscape architecture, engineering, arboriculture and planning), during the planning, design, development and construction process on all projects which will end up under the care, custody, and control of the Parks Department.
- . Participate in comprehensive and multi-agency planning initiatives such as the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel, Mayor's and Governor's Beaches Commission, the Spectacle Island Park Advisory Committee, and the Long Island Project.

SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The city's mission to serve the people of Boston implies a responsiveness to their changing needs and desires. The changing demographic and social patterns of the city require a response to meet these new and evolving demands. For example, in the days when the housewife/nuclear family predominated, parkkeepers served an important neighborhood function. Today, day care providers and summer camps now serve large numbers of the city's youth. A greater variety of field sports facilities has been requested by a more diverse, more international population. The city sees these changes as an opportunity to grow and mature into a dynamic world-class city.

- . Provide skill development programs in sports such as baseball and softball, soccer, basketball, golf, tennis, and sailing. The White Stadium Summer Sports Camp can provide the model for such programs.
- . Create facilities and programs for individual activities demanded by the community such as bird watching, quiet enjoyment, and exercising, which complement organized sports and fully utilize all aspects of the park system.
- . Continue the process of expanding park programming year round with ice skating, cross-country skiing, and sledding.
- . Respond to an increased percentage of elderly in the population served by developing programs targeted to their needs.
- . Provide for cultural preferences in recreational needs, adjusting to the demands of new residents.
- . Dedicate paths and trails for jogging, biking, and hiking.
- . Integrate in a more formal manner Parks Department programming with existing neighborhood-based park programs.

METHOD: THE PLANNING PROCESS

In designing the planning process to produce this plan several guidelines were established:

This would be a community involved process. With years of experience of working with residents on a day-to-day basis to maintain and program the parks and with the community-involved design process used for the Rebuilding Boston park reconstruction program, and with full-time community liaison officials (the Regional Administrators), the Parks Department is well equipped to carry out a community-involved process.

The plan must address all open space in the city, not just Parks Department-held open space. People use open spaces, not agencies. The city must take an active role in coordinating open space to assure the public a consistent level of safety and quality, to prevent needless duplication and wasted effort, and to promote the synergy possible from planning for one open space system.

A major orientation of the plan must be, as it was in 1982 and 1987, toward the neighborhoods. The neighborhood is the most sensible geography for planning because of the likelihood that need for open space is generated from one's home. "Close-to-home" recreation is still a valid planning consideration.

The plan would cover and integrate throughout the text issues of physical planning, rehabilitation, service delivery, and management.

The in-house resources of the Parks Department, with assistance from the Boston Foundation, and city and state agency planners would be used exclusively for the development and production of the plan document.

Community Involvement

Community involvement in the open space planning process is one of our most important underpinning values. Four successive stages, where community comments were incorporated, drove the process to write this plan.

The first was the Open Space Congress. A half-day conference, it served to assess where we have been, project what our needs will be, and address how we can meet these needs in a tight economy. Using mailing lists of citywide and community-based greening

groups, sports and recreation groups, and other constituencies, invitations were sent out. Almost 300 people gathered on a bitterly cold Saturday morning, on the three-day Presidents' Birthday weekend in February, 1991. . They participated in workshops and listened to city officials and other citizens speak in the plenary sessions. While the Regional Administrators and Senior Managers facilitated, the in-house planning staff took notes in the workshops and the plenary sessions. The gist of these ideas, we hope, have been incorporated throughout this document.

At the Congress, the next stage of community involvement was announced. This was the the more decentralized phase. Meetings were held in each of the neighborhoods, and for each of the citywide special topics. This allowed more concentrated attention on specific issues in smaller segments of the city's total open space system.

Notices of the neighborhood meeting were posted in prominent locations throughout the neighborhood, the local newspapers were notified of the meetings, and the Regional Administrators made phone and personal contacts with key constituents. The meetings were conducted in a less structured format than the Open Space Congress. This allowed more self-generated discussion and agenda-setting by participants. The results of these discussions are shown in the section for each neighborhood.

The third stage for community involvement was the review and comment phase. Preliminary drafts of the neighborhood sections and the general introduction to the neighborhoods chapter were distributed to participants of the neighborhood meetings. Members of the Board of Directors of the Boston GreenSpace Alliance also received a copy of these preliminary draft sections. The comments received were incorporated into a final draft version. As the fourth stage, the first full draft of the Open Space Plan was distributed to neighborhood meeting participants, as well as to a wider neighborhood audience of community leaders and active citizens.

In addition to the community process described above, the following two ingredients were also critical to the planning process.

Planning, design, construction and contracts management are located at 1010 Massachusetts Avenue. Staff has been increased to complement existing civil and electrical engineering capabilities with landscape architects, urban designers, environmental/land use and historic planners, and contracts management and field support. In addition to managing the capital campaign, this staff has overseen the master plans for Franklin Park and the Emerald Necklace Parks, and Boston Common. The planning staff participates in major city and neighborhood projects which involve a variety of city and state agencies in the coordination of open space and the creation of parkland.

Today at the beginning of a new five year plan, the Parks Department, both physically and organizationally rebuilt, delivers an accountable standard of services to its constituency. Through an ongoing interactive dynamic, the department constantly receives and responds to the public so that it will continue to deliver recreation services and manage parkland with the positive reputation it currently enjoys. The challenges of the future will not only be to accomplish the goals put forth in this document, but to maintain and exceed the standards set in the past five years.

Why a new plan?

In 1967, the City of Boston was reborn. The plan articulated a vision for the new city and set the quality of life for all citizens. It provided a roadmap for the city to improve its existing system and the provision of services and facilities. Over the years, this vision still holds true. The physical plant and the services provided have been improved. The City of Boston is now nationally known as a model of the public and private partnership around the use of open space.

In the same year, as part of the plan, a "Rebuilding Boston" campaign to revitalize the city, the Mayor's Office of Capital Planning published a five year plan for open space. This plan set the policy and implementation for Boston 1971 - 1976 and included a detailed inventory of parkland. It was one of the City's primary goals for open space over the last five years.

This plan is the logical continuation of these planning efforts. It provides a vision for the future and sets the quality of life for all citizens. It provides the City with a five year plan which is necessary to secure state and federal grants for continued development of the system. This plan makes a significant addition in that it provides a vision for the future.

. Address water and air quality, noise control, energy conservation, soil conservation, and wildlife habitat protection for the city in a comprehensive environmental policy statement.

. Develop an urban forest management and development plan using the resources of both the operating and capital budgets. Treat the city's trees as a part of the capital infrastructure that ensures a quality environment (air, visual, climate, wildlife).

. Work with state and federal agencies to improve the natural resources of our open space system, especially our vulnerable water bodies, such as the Muddy River, including Wards Pond, Scarborough Pond in Franklin Park, the Charles River, and the Inner and Outer Harbor.

. Work with the Boston Conservation Commission to secure protection of the natural resources of the city, particularly as they apply to the open space system.

INTRODUCTION

This document, written by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, sets forth a vision and implementation plan for the next five years for public open space in Boston. While the primary mission of the Parks Department is the programming and maintenance of its 2200 acre park system, there is a need for one agency to coordinate the planning, care, custody and control of other Boston open spaces used by the public.

The development and production of an open space plan for Boston requires two things: an understanding of the underlying values of those who use the open space resources in the city or participate in its improvement, and the commitment to carry through those values into actual practice. This plan sets forth the views of individuals, community groups, advisory boards, and advocacy organizations which were consulted as part of the year long process of writing this plan. It embraces each of their priorities as well as the ongoing plans of various agencies. In the fall of 1990, the Boston Parks Department felt the need, after five years of a successful effort to rehabilitate most of Boston's park system, to again look out to the next five years. This led to the commitment to develop a city wide plan, to provide policy direction, and to establish goals and priorities which will inform all open space related activity in the city.

Why a new plan?

In 1987, the Greening of Boston was published. This plan articulated a vision for how open space impacts and improves the quality of life for all citizens. It provided, in broad strokes, a roadmap for how Boston should improve its existing system and the provision of programs and services offered therein. Five years later, this vision still holds true though substantial improvements have been made in the physical plant and delivery systems which provide a wide range of programs. The Greening of Boston is seen nationally as a model of the public and private consensus building around the social and physical issues of open space.

In the same year, as part of Mayor Raymond L. Flynn's "Rebuilding Boston" campaign to rebuild the infrastructure of the city, the Mayor's Office of Capital Planning published a five year plan for open space. This plan outlined policy and implementation for Boston 1987 - 1991 and included a detailed inventory of parkland holdings. It has served as the city's primary guide for open space over the last five years.

This plan is the logical continuation of those planning efforts. It updates the inventory of the park system which was been revitalized and substantially rebuilt. It provides the city with a current five year plan which is necessary to secure vital state and federal grants for continued capitalization of the system. This plan makes a significant addition in that unlike previous efforts its contents

are a product of an extensive community based planning process where the community residents were asked about their priorities in each of the neighborhoods and where the special concerns of advisory and advocacy groups were solicited.

Who will use this plan?

It is the department's hope that this plan will serve a coordinating role for all citizens and public agency employees who are working in open space. As the only comprehensive consolidation of policy and of specific recommendations addressing Boston's entire open space system it becomes a unique reference to guide improvements to open space in the city. This document is organized in three sections. The first articulates a city-wide open space policy. The second consists of individual chapters for each of the city's neighborhoods. The third section has separate chapters on system-wide concerns: the Emerald Necklace, the Boston harbor, trees and thoroughfares, programming, cemeteries, urban wilds and community gardens. In addition, there is an appendix at the back of this plan which lists all public agencies working in open space and the focus of their jurisdictions as well as the ongoing plans taking place at those agencies. The listing includes larger private and non-profit organizations working in open space and their ongoing planning efforts. Many of these plans have been referred to in the text of this document, and are a source of further information to the reader. [Note: This appendix will be included in the final plan.]

The Parks Commission

The scope of this plan is ambitious in that it covers new ground and requires an expanded role for the Parks Department to coordinate open space related activity for the entire city. Institutionally and legislatively, the Parks Commission is ideally placed to oversee the implementation of this plan's recommendations and to carry through its vision.

The Parks Commission, established in 1875, has broad powers to review developments and activities having an impact on parkland in the City of Boston whether or not it is owned by the city. Over the last five years the Parks Commission has taken a proactive role in using these powers to protect the park system and ensure that its programming and use benefits all citizens.

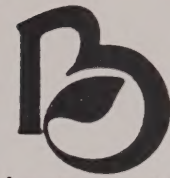
The Parks Commission which meets on the last Monday of each month regularly reviews capital and operating budgets and planning initiatives. It rules on the acquisition or deaccessioning of parklands and legislation which protects parklands. Over the last five years it has been particularly vigilant in reviewing all

B. Johnson



Raymond L. Flynn
Mayor

BOSTON
OPEN SPACE



boston parks
and recreation

Lawrence A. Dwyer
Commissioner

CITY OF BOSTON

OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR BOSTON

Draft

January 1992

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Planning and Development Unit

For information call 725-4505

Parcel	Address	Characteristics Land Area	Ownership	Study Recommendation
R-13	East Brookline St. James	Community Garden .15 acre	BRA	Zone and designate as public open space
Portion R-10	38-50 E. Newton St. 739-743 Harrison Ave.	Landscaped Open Space .21 acre	BRA	Should be used for housing
Portion Parcel 54	652-656 Harrison Ave. Plympton Street	Community Garden .22 acre	BRA	Zone and designate as public open space/community garden or negotiate green, garden border for use by Cathedral residents
	95-97 Union Park St.	Play Area/seating .22 acre	BRA	Reclaim and maintain or explore possibility of development
	Unity Towers 44-46 W. Dedham 365-367 Shawmut Ave.	Community Garden .06 acre	IBA	Zone as permanent public open space/community garden
	29-31 Dartmouth St.	Garden .09 acre	Real Prop.	Explore future use with community and Mackey School
RR-10	Hiscock Park 166 W. Newton St.	Tot lot .11 acre	BRA	Zone and designate as perm. open space/tot lot
	Saranac/Newcastle 388 Northampton St.	Community Garden .23 acre	BRA	Transfer title to MDC/MBTA as Southwest Corridor Park land
Portions of 23A & 20	Lenox/Kendall Tremont Streets	Community Garden .30 acre	BRA	Zone and designate as permanent public open space/community garden

Parcel	Address	Characteristics Land Area	Ownership	Study Recommendation
Portion of X-26 SE-57	1002-1004 Tremont St. 25-29 Warwick Cabot Street	Bessie Barnes Community Garden .15 acre, .08 acre	BRA	Preserve as much as possible as permanent public open space/ community garden within SENHI Phase II development context
P-6A	69-73 Warwick Street 1-67 E. Berkeley St./ Tremont St./ Public Alley 705/ Shawmut Ave.	UNLR Community Garden .30 acre Community Garden 1.1 acres	DPW Right-of-Way BRA	Make every effort to preserve as permanent public open space/ Zone and preserve 60% for open space/community garden/ greensward.
Parcel 30	1565-1587 Washington Rutland/Haven Sts.	Gazebo Community Garden .44 acre	BRA	Zone and designate parcel 30A as permanent public open space/ community garden
RD-13	20-22 Clarendon St.	Community Garden .05 acre	BRA	Zone and designate as permanent public open space/community garden
RE-2B	108-138 Worcester St.	Community Garden .53 acre	BRA	Zone and designate as permanent public open space/community garden
RR-8	Corner Wellington St. 561 Columbus Ave.	Vacant lot .05 acre	BRA	Zone and designate as permanent public open space
RD-36 SE-49 SE-7 SE-2	106-116 W. Springfield Street	Community Garden .21 acre	BRA/COB	Zone and designate as permanent public open space/community garden
29-A 33-B R-12A R 12B	1797-1815 Washington 75-87 Northampton St. 1762-1788 Washington 91-113 Northampton St.	Dev. parcels .32 acre 1.1 acres	BRA	Explore possibility of creating significant open space by clustering new housing

THE ALLSTON-BRIGHTON NEIGHBORHOOD

The Allston-Brighton neighborhood is located in the northern part of the city of Boston. It is bounded on the north by the city of Cambridge, on the east by the city of Boston, on the south by the city of Boston, and on the west by the city of Boston. The neighborhood is characterized by its diverse population, its rich history, and its proximity to the city center.

ALLSTON-BRIGHTON

Proximity to the Charles River and to the Boston and Albany Railroad encouraged development of the neighborhood. The neighborhood is characterized by its diverse population, its rich history, and its proximity to the city center.

After World War II, the neighborhood experienced a significant increase in population. This was due to a combination of factors, including the availability of affordable housing, the proximity to the city center, and the presence of a diverse population.

The Allston-Brighton neighborhood is characterized by its diverse population, its rich history, and its proximity to the city center. The neighborhood is home to a large number of people from a variety of backgrounds, including African American, Hispanic, and Asian. This diversity is one of the neighborhood's strengths and is a key factor in its appeal.

THE ALLSTON-BRIGHTON NEIGHBORHOOD

HISTORY

Like many Boston neighborhoods, the Allston-Brighton area was established in the colonial era (1635) with land grants. A sparsely settled agricultural pattern prevailed until the filling of Back Bay and Kenmore Square in the late 1800s, by which time the Brighton stockyards had become the foremost cattle market in the region. Also in the late 1800s, extension of street car lines encouraged high quality residential development in Brighton, much of which still remains today.

Proximity to the Charles River and to the Boston and Albany Railroad encouraged construction of the stockyards, slaughterhouses, and meatpacking operations in Allston and the northern and eastern sections of Brighton. As the nation expanded westward and refrigerated railroad cars were introduced, regional stockyards, like those in Brighton, declined in importance. They were replaced by other industrial plants, commercial warehouses, and houses. The diversity of land uses and unplanned development resulted in a confusing and blighted environment which still exists in some sections today.

After World War II, the Massachusetts Turnpike extension further isolated Allston from Brighton. Wider than the tracks, the Pike added to noise and air pollution and it severed pedestrian links. Proximity to expanding universities on all sides resulted in a considerable influx of students, younger families and new workers. This in turn spurred much conversion of housing to provide more smaller units and condominiums.

SUB-NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILES

Allston-Brighton has two large, distinct geographical areas:

Allston: This part of the community is situated between the Charles River and the east-west line composed of Commonwealth Avenue, Brighton Avenue and Beacon Street. Allston's internal spine consists of the Boston and Albany Railroad line and the Massachusetts Turnpike extension. Its northeast corner is dominated by Harvard's athletic complex including the stadium and ice rink and by the Harvard Business School campus. Residential areas are clustered along the spine. Detached wood-frame housing predominates, and there are brick apartment complexes and rowhouses along major arteries. The population is diverse and largely rental.

Brighton: Larger than Allston, Brighton stretches south of Commonwealth Avenue to touch Brookline, west to Chestnut Hill and north to Newton. It is visually delineated by thoroughfares, commercial centers, institutional campuses and varied residential sub-neighborhoods. Industrial facilities predominate only along Brighton Avenue and North Beacon Street on the northern, Allston border. Except for Commonwealth Avenue and Chestnut Hill Avenue, with their large apartment and condominium blocks, Brighton's neighborhoods are defined mostly by detached wood-frame single and multiple unit houses. Large open spaces in Brighton are clustered in the southwest around St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Chandler Pond, and Chestnut Hill Reservoir.

DEMOGRAPHICS / HOUSING

Allston-Brighton's population of 70,284 includes: Irish, Italian, Greek, Jewish, and more recently, Asian, African-American, and Hispanic ethnic groups. Over two-thirds of the households are non-families living as singles or as roommates (students and working adults). In terms of families, some are young, some are recent immigrants, and many are long-time members of the community.

Allston-Brighton joined Fenway-Kenmore as one of Boston's fastest growing neighborhoods from 1980 to 1985. In 1985, the median age of local residents was 25.9 compared to a city average of 28.8. In 1985 in Allston-Brighton, 6% of the population was 14 years of age or younger, 39% between age 15-24, 30% from age 25-34, 11% between age 35-54 and 14% age 55 and above. In 1984 Allston-Brighton's median household income was \$22,400, compared to the citywide average of \$19,250.

The predominant housing type is a wood frame, single family unit, but one-to-six family structures, rowhouses, garden apartments, and medium rise apartments are present in substantial numbers. From 1980 to 1985, Allston-Brighton was second only to the Central district in net additions to its housing stock; while 75% of area residents rented, condominium conversions doubled the rate of ownership in that five-year period. Today, both housing costs and rents in Allston-Brighton are the highest of any area not contiguous to downtown Boston.

OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

Allston-Brighton has a rich palette of public parkland and other contributing open space. City of Boston facilities range from many neighborhood parks with play and sports facilities, to an 18th century cemetery, a 19th century cemetery and passive areas such as Chandler Pond and the wooded part of Ringer Park. There are several community gardens under various ownerships. The urban wilds are numerous and important and are discussed in detail below. Parkland of historic and regional significance include MWRA's Chestnut Hill Reservoir and MDC's Charles River Reservation. Commonwealth Avenue is notable as a historic boulevard and a link in the open space system.

EQUITY AND INVESTMENT

Allston-Brighton has a total of 252 acres in its open space inventory of parks, playgrounds, squares and malls under Parks Department and other public jurisdictions. This gives the area 3.58 acres per 1,000 residents as compared to a city-wide average of 5.5 acres. Stated another way, in Allston Brighton 12.3% of the city's population is served by 7.9% of its open space. Urban wilds add another 96 acres of unprotected, mostly institutionally owned lands. Retaining and protecting community access to open space owned by hospitals, schools and religious organizations in Allston and Brighton is important.

The City of Boston has invested close to \$3 million in improving and protecting thirteen facilities in the past five years. These are listed below:

TABLE 1

CITY OF BOSTON CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN ALLSTON-BRIGHTON 1987-1991

<u>PARK</u>	<u>INVESTMENT</u>
Hardiman	\$ 303,000
McKinney	536,000
Ringer	348,000
Sheehy (Smith/Mission Hill)	265,000
Portsmouth	288,000
Rogers (Galvin)	115,000
Hooker Street	230,000
Cassidy	70,000
Hobart Street	98,000
Penniman Street	98,000
Oak Square (Browne Fund)	333,000
Evergreen Cemetery	144,000
Market Street Cemetery	62,000
TOTAL	\$ 2,890,000

ASSESSMENT BY SUB-NEIGHBORHOOD

Allston: This northeast portion of the larger community has the least number of neighborhood parks. The MDC Charles River Reservation is a very significant regional and neighborhood recreational resource -- used by picknickers, boaters, runners, walkers, bicyclists and community gardeners. However, neighborhood access to the Reservation is difficult at some points across the Massachusetts Turnpike and Soldier's Field Road. The disorganized growth of Allston has resulted in difficult community access to existing park lands as well as a general lack of green in the community. Additional to the inventory of public recreational lands, Harvard's Allston campuses include open space and a sports complex.

Brighton: Brighton has generally good distribution of neighborhood parks. It has great variety in its open space as well, including such resources as Evergreen Cemetery and Chestnut Hill Reservoir. Increased street greening, such as along Commonwealth Avenue, is a major objective as is using thoroughfares to link and strengthen the area's open space system as a whole. Non-protected Urban Wilds add 38% to the acreage of public open space. Almost all the Wilds are owned by institutions.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

One important goal will be to create public/institutional partnerships to protect and enhance recreational opportunities for community members. A plan needs to be developed to make Allston more green and to improve pedestrian and bicycle access to existing park lands. The plan to regreen Commonwealth Avenue needs to be finalized and implemented. Chandler Pond needs environmental improvements, and the starting point is water quality assessment.

OPPORTUNITIES

Support the BRA's newly designated open space zones to protect public open space resources.

Develop an Allston greening plan. Focus on the southern boundary thoroughfares, pedestrian and bicycle access to and among parks, and opportunities for public open space at Allston Landing North such as BRA and community recommendations for active recreational facilities.

Prepare a water quality assessment and phase one treatment plan for Chandler Pond. Support BRA and community recommendations to protect and improve open space at Chandler Pond.

Support Metropolitan District Commission efforts to provide recreational opportunities in keeping with the historic character of the Charles River Reservation and to meet extraordinary maintenance needs.

Complete capital improvement needs for city neighborhood parks focusing on ball field and play area facilities.

Create an Outreach Partners program parallel to the Park Partners program to stimulate community recreational activities on non-publicly owned land. Encourage and assist universities and other institutions, developers, and businesses in planning and implementing recreational programming, maintenance, and capital projects. Offer technical assistance regarding planning and design for development that also protects existing open space or creates new neighborhood park facilities.

Create more community-based Park Partner programs using Oak Square as the model.

Complete a design for the regreening of Commonwealth Avenue using the recent BRA plan and the original Olmsted plan for guidance. Provide seating for specific areas as requested by the community.

Strengthen Brighton's existing public open space system. Explore opportunities the BRA has noted: to strengthen the connections with surrounding parks, cemeteries, and urban wilds along Commonwealth Avenue, Market Street, and Chestnut Hill Avenue, and to plant more street trees along Warren and Washington Streets.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Strengthen established community/city and inter-agency communications regarding open space needs and proposed plans which may affect open space resources and opportunities.

Provide more ball fields and practice areas.

Provide dedicated soccer fields and practice areas.

Compensate for competing use and overuse of active sports facilities with a combined management/maintenance approach.

Provide additional play areas for young children.

Install rules signs regarding dogs and enforce the dog ordinance in neighborhood parks.

Safeguard the city's recent capital improvements in neighborhood parks with adequate maintenance and supplement city maintenance capabilities with community and financial assistance as needed.

Provide more community gardens. Provide water for gardens near Evergreen Cemetery.

Coordinate efforts between the community, Boston Art Commission and Parks Department regarding appropriate installation and care of public art in parks.

Ringer Park - Address play area safety: add sand, repair broken equipment, accommodate pre-school children, remove thorny bushes with berries, and potentially replace fence. Clear out/clean up the back side of the hill.

Hardiman Playground - Improve ball field drainage and reposition foul line marker. Explore possibility of developing additional ball field practice space in the vicinity of the park.

Rogers Park (Galvin) - Improve ball field drainage; if possible install bleachers and more playing fields.

Fidelis Way Park - Rehabilitate the park, improve access from Washington and Warren streets.

Joyce/Union Park - Rehabilitate the park.

Smith Field - Renovate ball fields which have not been improved to date.

Portsmouth Street Playground - Complete capital needs with ball field renovation and fencing.

Chandler Pond - Clean-up and clear out area along culvert, define and improve edges of property, improve access from Kendrick Street, fund a water quality study and implement its top priorities.

Cleveland Circle - Open space agencies need better communications and coordination with each other and the community. MWRA to maintain the running path at Chestnut Hill Reservoir focusing for public safety and visibility.

Cassidy Playground - Provide porta-johns.

Commonwealth Avenue - Repair area at Allston Street where soil was dug up. Provide more passive park amenities. MDC to maintain plantings on the traffic island near Boston College.

BACK BAY/BEACON HILL

THE BACK BAY / BEACON HILL NEIGHBORHOOD

HISTORY

Beacon Hill takes its name from the sentry light erected on its peak to warn settlers of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in case of a threat from Indians or foreign invaders. The south slope as it exists today began to emerge in the 1790s with the building of the present State House. Starting at this time, the hill was reshaped and the old beacon taken down.

Cutting and filling allowed the development of Louisburg Square and Mt. Vernon Street for substantial house lots. The north slope had three sections by the latter 1700s: stately houses around Bowdoin Square, an African American community between Joy and Phillips streets, and a "redlight" district near the Charles River. The north slope has changed due largely to construction of the Massachusetts General Hospital complex and of tenement and apartment buildings in the 1800s.

The Back Bay originally referred to a tidal body of water on the west edge of the Shawmut Peninsula which stretched from Brookline to the Common. A dam, finished in 1821 to harness industrial water power, ran along what is now Beacon Street, from Charles Street to present-day Kenmore Square. Stagnant water and sewerage soon led to demands to fill the area. Landfill began at the Public Garden and extended west. From the 1850s to the 1890s the entire area was filled beyond Kenmore Square and north to the present location of Storrow Drive.

Parisian boulevards inspired the linear plan of the Back Bay with its stately tree-lined spine of Commonwealth Avenue. By contrast, an English model with squares influenced the layout of Beacon Hill and the South End. The Back Bay developed quickly with fashionable townhouses reflecting the affluence of its residents. Deed restrictions created consistency for building heights, setbacks, and masonry construction.

PROFILE

Development of the Massachusetts Turnpike, the Prudential Center and Copley Place have created a relatively new major commercial and hotel complex. Also, in the past decade, retail activity has been upgraded substantially on Newbury Street. Both Beacon Hill and Back Bay are now under historic district designations which provide continuing design controls. The Common, Public Garden and Commonwealth Avenue Mall are designated City of Boston Landmarks. In addition, the Common and Garden are National Historic Landmarks (the highest tier of listing in the National Register of Historic Places).

DEMOGRAPHICS / HOUSING (1985 figures unless otherwise noted)

The average household size is relatively small (1.6 persons). Group quarters accommodate 17% of the area's population due to a high number of college students and lodging houses tenants. This figure, however, has diminished due to the 1980s surge in property values. The median age of 28.8 exactly matches the city-wide median. However, the area has the largest population in the city of residents aged 25-34, and relatively few residents under the age of 14 or over the age of 55. Median income (1984) is \$32,500 compared to the city-wide median of \$19,250. Whites make up 91% of the population, compared to 62% city-wide, African-Americans account for 4%, Latinos for 3% and Asians for 2%.

Masonry townhouses of 4-6 stories are the predominant type of housing in the area, dating mainly from the 19th century. Many buildings are now divided into 5 or more units. There are some later and larger apartment buildings. Back Bay/Beacon Hill has the highest property values in the city, among the highest rents and only 4% assisted housing units. As of 1986, 30% of the housing units were condominiums, accounting for more than 25% of Boston's total number of condominiums, and contributing to the 20% owner-occupied figure for housing units in the area.

OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

Because they are centrally located, large, historic in character, and highly visible, the parks in this area are among the most heavily used in the greater metropolitan area. They are: Boston Common, the Public Garden, Commonwealth Avenue Mall and Copley Square, all under city jurisdiction, the Metropolitan District Commission's Charles River Esplanade, and the new State House Park.

While these parks are regional and tourist destinations they also serve the neighborhood. Active sports facilities and play areas are contained within Boston Common and the Charles River Esplanade. In addition to the major parks, the Back Bay/Beacon Hill area has two small playgrounds, and Back Bay has one. Despite heavy use, the parks in this area are generally in very good condition.

EQUITY AND INVESTMENT

The area's residents have an average of 5.01 acres of open space per 1,000 persons, close to the city-wide average of 5.5 acres. The total amount of open space in the area is 146 acres. Stated another way, Back Bay/Beacon Hill has 5.1% of Boston's total population and 4.6% of its total open space. Due to high real estate values and high density of the population, the overall amount of open space is unlikely to increase unless private land owners can provide park space in their development plans, notably Prudential Center.

In the past five years, the City of Boston and others have invested 9.08 million dollars for capital improvements in the area's parks. This includes the joint public/private effort to transform Copley Square at a cost of \$5,086,000 (see Table 1 below).

TABLE 1

BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN BACK BAY/BEACON HILL 1987-1991

<u>PARK</u>	<u>INVESTMENT</u>
Myrtle Street	\$ 70,000
Boston Common/Public Garden	3,564,323
Commonwealth Avenue Mall	163,760
Copley Square	5,086,000
Clarendon Street	
Phillips Street	<u>100,000</u>
TOTAL	\$9,084,083

ASSESSMENT

This neighborhood boasts several of Boston's premier urban parks. Due to the recent capital projects, the parks in this area are generally in excellent condition. A pressing concern is availability of extraordinary resources to continue to maintain such heavily-used parks. Another immediate need is better care for aging and heavily-stressed street trees and park trees, accompanied by needs for more replanting and for adequate care of new trees. Although there is a need for more ball fields, play areas, and tennis courts, such needs are unlikely to be met in the near term given land use pressures and property values.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

It is anticipated that central Boston's already popular parks will see increasing use in the next few years, due especially to the city's current focus on tourism. For many parks in the area, the need is for extraordinary maintenance and management efforts to safeguard already completed or currently pending capital improvements. Boston Common is the exception where major capital projects are planned.

This neighborhood offers an excellent opportunity for the city to create a model tree program. The program must institutionalize Parks Department standards for planting of trees by various city agencies. There are many sources for outside support and their pursuit must emphasize that gifts or trees are only acceptable if subsequent maintenance can be ensured.

See also the chapters on the Emerald Necklace, Historic Burying Grounds and Trees.

OPPORTUNITIES

Focus on Boston Common regarding new capital projects. Upgrade water, drainage, and path systems. Pursue high priority rehabilitation projects including the Tremont Street edge, Parkman Bandstand, and the Frog Pond. Opportunities shall be pursued to implement other Management Plan recommendations when the Common is disturbed for projects by others such as subway station renovation and reconstruction of the underground garage.

Finish planned and pending capital programs for Central Burying Ground, Phillips Street Playground, Commonwealth Avenue Mall, and the Public Garden.

Continue to coordinate review and approval of projects for historic parks with all other city agencies that may have jurisdiction: Beacon Hill Architectural District Commission, Back Bay Historic District Commission, Boston Landmarks Commission, and Boston Art Commission.

Model a tree initiative which can capitalize planting and cyclical care. Focus street tree planting on Beacon Hill, Newbury Street, and Boylston Street. Focus park tree activities on Boston Common, the Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall. Institute a tree giving policy with a built-in agreement for two years of follow-up care.

Continue to enhance Boston Parks Department maintenance resources, especially for turf management, routine maintenance of park elements and graffiti removal.

Support MDC efforts to maintain the Charles River Esplanade.

Train and employ the Boston Youth Clean-up Corps to perform specific park maintenance projects in city and MDC parks.

Manage competing uses and over-use. Follow the master plans and other established Parks Department policies regarding use of specific areas and facilities. Explore cooperative efforts to create additional active play and sports facilities, recognizing that expansion of ball fields, children's play areas, and courts is not feasible in existing parks.

Continue to participate in PruPac discussions to achieve additional open space at the Prudential Center which responds to community needs.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Provide ongoing and increased security. Expand the Boston Park Rangers presence, especially year-round; continue to explore enforcement powers. Continue to support Boston Police Department efforts. Install lights according to the master plans and complete the statue lighting for Commonwealth Avenue Mall. Install call boxes or phones as per the master plans.

Explore design options for maximum use of existing active recreation facilities, without disturbing the peace or historic integrity of the parks or their surrounds.

Strengthen established community/city communications. Continue review of proposed capital projects through park partner and friends groups, neighborhood groups, open space organizations, and park user groups.

Provide better coordination regarding street tree planting and management. Accelerate replacement of trees. Establish a tree endowment fund and expanded volunteer corps. Establish a city-wide educational program regarding trees.

Commonwealth Avenue Mall - Complete fencing, signage, and statue lighting programs. Continue to improve security. Water trees as needed; volunteers and Parks personnel to provide direction to Boston Youth Clean-up Corps crew.

Clarendon Street Playground - Parks Department requested to mow the grass.

Boylston Street - Plant existing planters by the Hynes and the Fire Station. Support implementation of improvements in Boston Public Works Department plan.

Copley Square - Continue to maintain horticultural health and safeguard capital investments by public/private efforts. Enforce Parks Department rules and regulations for No Skateboarding and No Swimming or Wading.

Boston Common Ball Fields - Improve Little League field to be consistent with softball field regarding turf, bleachers, lighting. Mobilize volunteers to work with maintenance crew. Facilitate more youth league play with measures such as access to the softball field for Saturday mornings and exhibition games. Resolve conflicts with soccer players at the softball field. Turn off softball field lights when games end.

Charles River Esplanade - MDC requested to explore the possibility of Pony League play on the existing ball field.

1. THE CENTRAL BOSTON (with NORTH END) NEIGHBORHOOD

HISTORY and NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

Included within the Central Boston neighborhood is the downtown financial district and Government Center, the Bullfinch Triangle, as well the discreet residential areas of the North End, West End and the Waterfront. (Chinatown has been covered in a separate chapter.)

Originally known as the Shawmut peninsula the city's civic, commercial and financial core has been located at the site of modern day downtown Boston since the city's founding. The Old State House, at the junction of State and Washington Streets, has served as the center of public life since the 17th century. The original Faneuil Hall was built in 1742, today with the renovation of Quincy Market as a pedestrianized public space with restaurants and retail, the area is a major tourist attraction. Christopher Columbus Park located between the market and the waterfront provides space for passive recreation for tourists and North End residents alike.

Throughout the 18th century increasing development resulted in street patterns became dense, encircling Fort Hill and eventually reaching the Boston Common. Fort Hill, however, was leveled in 1872, the same year a fire destroyed much of downtown Boston. Now most of the financial district's office towers are located in the area. The recently completed Post Office Square park provides critical open space in an otherwise extremely congested area. The park itself is the product of a public-private partnership and exemplifies the advantages of corporate abutters participating in the management of public space in the downtown core.

A major influence in the growth of downtown Boston has been the development of its harbor. At the beginning of the 18th century Boston's position as a prominent maritime community was secured with the addition of Long Wharf and the building of close to 40 wharves, more than a dozen shipyards, and six ropewalks. With the decline of the shipping industry in the early 1900s, Boston's wharves began to be abandoned, with many buildings remaining vacant till the 1950s when the Central Artery was constructed. Today, wharf renovation and urban renewal have created Boston's newest mixed use and residential district. Harborwalk, a continuous pedestrian path along the water's edge from the South Station area to the North End links all the publicly accessible open spaces along the waterfront including those at Rows Wharf.

2. OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

EQUITY AND INVESTMENT

In comparison with the rest of the city, the Central Boston area is under served in terms of open space available to local residents. With a total of slightly less than 30 acres of publicly owned parks, playgrounds squares and malls (only one percent of Boston's total of such space) this open space must cater to the outdoor needs of the local population as well as of office goers and tourists. For the North End, there are 1.9 acres of public open space for every thousand persons, substantially below most other residential areas in Boston.

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department made capital improvements to all its major facilities in the North End including Langone, Puopolo, Polcari and Cuttilo playgrounds, expending over 2.5 million dollars in a five year period starting from 1987. The Paul Revere Mall has also been substantially improved. In addition to the above expenditures, many other improvements were made to public spaces through out the Central Boston area, by public sector entities as well as through public-private partnerships like the one which built Post Office Square Park.

ASSESSMENT

The pedestrian environment in Central Boston benefits from its context, the area is at once the civic, historic and economic core of the city, accordingly its open spaces provide a rich diversity of experiences. While existing squares, pedestrian malls, passive seating areas and plazas are well distributed they need to be linked in a comprehensible manner--for example the waterfront should be easily accessible from Post Office Square and City Hall plaza. Comprehensive programs to ensure the perpetual maintenance of all existing and proposed public spaces have not yet been instituted. There continues to be a lack of protected public gardens for year round use, as well as of day-care centers.

On the other hand, the residential population located along the waterfront and in the North End urgently requires new playgrounds to accommodate current demands. Also limited are the neighborhoods indoor recreation areas, critical spaces in congested areas, specially during the winter months.

Finally, the central artery today severely limits access to the waterfront both from the financial district and government center. The proposed depression of the artery will eliminate this problem in the coming decade.

During urban renewal the dilapidated Scollay Square area was leveled to make space for a new Government Center consisting of buildings to accommodate expanding city, state and federal bureaucracies. An eleven acre brick paved plaza in front of the new City Hall was built as the center piece of this complex. The plaza is regularly used for concerts, political rallies and as a farmer's market. The Bullfinch Triangle, so called because of Charles Bullfinch's street plan for a triangular area created by filling in the marshy North Cove in the 19th century, consists of warehouse structures which are now being rapidly converted for office uses.

Originally a hilly pasture, the North End as one of Boston's oldest neighborhoods has been home to thousands of immigrants. In the early 1800's came the Irish who built mansions and cottages abutting the narrow streets and alleys which to this day distinguish the North End from the rest of the city. Italians came in large numbers in the 1890's and since then the area has been largely Italian. In the 1950s, with the building of the Central Artery, North End was isolated from the downtown area. The neighborhood contains several sites which are on the Freedom Trail, and local residents have accepted the resulting influx of tourists. In fact, the number of restaurants and shops have been gradually increasing over the years.

The coming two decades will transform the character of downtown Boston again, with the completion of wharf restoration and the depression of the Central Artery to create a linear park.

DEMOGRAPHICS / HOUSING

Like much of the rest of Boston, this area experienced a rapid decline in its residential population after the second war, only to stabilize in the 1980s due to an increasing immigration of young professionals looking for 'walk to work' residential accommodation. For example, by the 1920s, with the last tenements completed, 35,000 lived in the North End alone. The 1980 census figure is about 9,000. Of course, the daytime population swells as close to 200,000 persons come to work at downtown offices. In addition, the downtown area is home to thousands of tourists and business visitors.

The median age is high compared to the city wide figure, with very few persons under 25 years of age. The North End has a large elderly population, mainly of Italian ancestry. Multi-family housing dominates the residential sections of the Central District. High rise residential towers make up the West End in addition to the Harbor Towers on the waterfront. The North End now has many new condominiums and buildings typically have mixed uses with stores on the ground floor.

TABLE 1

**BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN NORTH END 1987-1992**

PARK	INVESTMENT
Langone Park	\$44,000
Puopolo Playground	\$311,000
Charter Street Playground	\$280,000
Cuttilo Playground	\$100,000
Polcari Playground	\$150,000
Paul Revere Mall	\$579,000
Copps Hill Cemetery	\$153,000
Polcari Playground Phase II	\$40,000
DeFilippo Playground	\$250,000
TOTAL	\$1,907,000

3. CENTRAL BOSTON (with NORTH END) : THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Boston's historical inner core while characterized by mature and well integrated public spaces has only 30 acres of open space a third of which is the brick paved City Hall Plaza. However, future generations of North End residents, tourists and downtown office workers stand to benefit from a radically transformed public realm once the Central Artery air-rights are realized. A diversity of open space types should be created in this corridor with discreet connections to the waterfront (in the spirit of the 'walk to the sea' concept) and in tandem with supportive land uses. However, such a vision should be informed by a maintenance feasibility study for operating the parkland.

OPPORTUNITIES

North End

Utilize adjacent Central Artery air-rights parcels for a neighborhood park, indoor court facilities and for supporting pocket parks in accordance with the recommendations of the BRA's 'Boston 2000 : A Plan for The Central Artery' report.

Seek from all proposed developments on Sargent's and Lewis Wharfs a commitment toward protecting the water from pollution in the vicinity of their projects and providing public access as determined by abutters and the local community.

Complete the Harborwalk along the North End piers and examine the possibility of docking small craft for community use along Puopolo or Langone parks.

Develop a permanent location for Hay Market activities by utilizing the reorganization of streets and parcels proposed through Central Artery improvements.

Downtown

Develop as a boulevard and linear parkland the central artery air-rights corridor with a minimum of 75% open space and support the recommendations in the report 'Boston 2000: A Plan for the Central Artery.'

Enhance the 'Walk to the Sea' concept from the State House to Long Wharf along State Street with the creation of a destination use on the relevant artery air-rights parcel.

Select parcels from the artery air-rights and from the Midtown Cultural District to develop a system of winter gardens for year round public activity.

Develop under utilized pockets of land in Dewey Square for open spaces to be used by the financial district population in a way similar to the Five Cents Plaza and Angell Memorial/Post Office Square parks.

Organization of Neighborhood Chapters

For each neighborhood, we followed a similar format: a prefatory section, a presentation of planning opportunities for the next five years, and finally a set of community priorities. The prefatory section contains a brief discussion of neighborhood history, focused on land use and development trends, a brief discussion of demographic and housing trends, and a look at open space in the neighborhood, including acreage, distribution, capital investment, and an assessment of current features and potentials.

"Opportunities" represents the planning potentials and directions necessary to the framing of a guiding open space vision for each neighborhood. Consequently, they address all open space, regardless of jurisdiction and ownership, from a citywide perspective. These opportunities represent the longer-term view, projects and processes likely to take shape in the five-year, or even greater, timeframe.

"Community Priorities" represent the discussion at the neighborhood meetings. They tend toward more immediate or shorter-term issues and concerns. A careful reading, however, can indicate a community sense of direction. They form the basis for expending funds and directing management efforts in the coming years.

1. THE CHARLESTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD

HISTORY

Originally settled in the early 17th century, Charlestown did not become a part of Boston until 1874. It was already a thriving harborside community by the time of the American Revolution. A naval shipyard was established there in the early 1800s, producing a mixture of industry and port-related activities as well as large sections of tenement housing for workers. As waves of working class Europeans arrived to work in the shipyard, many of the wealthy old Charlestown families began to move out.

With World War II generating heavy demand on the shipyard, many of the neighborhood's homes were converted into rooming houses to accommodate both workers and ship crews. The resulting concentration of immigrants, sailors, and laborers gave Charlestown a reputation that did not encourage investments in building one-family homes, businesses, or support services. During the post-war depression, the area began a decline which did not begin to reverse until the urban renewal efforts of the 1970s. This urban renewal process, now nearing completion, was part of a larger revival and rebuilding initiative that has help restore the community, perpetuating further growth and improvement. Central to this new growth has been the redevelopment of the Charlestown Navy Yard for office and residential uses.

SUB-NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILES

Charlestown can be divided into four distinct geographic areas :

Town Hill : This southern section of Charlestown is primarily residential with some institutional buildings and churches. Many of its rowhouses have been converted into condominiums and two-family houses in recent years to accommodate an influx of new residents. Historic open spaces such as the Bunker Hill Monument, John Harvard Mall and the Training Field are in this area. At the time of writing the Central Artery North Area (CANA) project was under construction which is replacing existing highway ramps with new development parcels.

Bunker Hill / Little Mystic : This area contains most of Charlestown's one and two -family houses occupied by the town's older families. It features a balance of playgrounds and natural areas ranging from Ryan and Doherty playgrounds to a urban wilds along the Little Mystic. The water channel also has housing projects and abandoned sites at its edges.

2. OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

EQUITY AND INVESTMENT

Charlestown has a total of 56 acres in its open space inventory of parks, playgrounds, squares and malls both under Parks Department and other public jurisdictions [see Inventory]. This constitutes a 2% share of the city's total open space. In comparison, Charlestown share of Boston's total population is about 3%. Seen another way, these figures translate into 4 acres per 1000 persons, slightly below the city average of 5 acres. It is expected that with the development of open space at the Navy Yard as well as through the CANA project averages will be nearer the city wide levels.

The City of Boston's Parks Department invested close to 2.0 million dollars in improving targeted facilities through the five year capital plan spread over ten facilities [Table 1]. These include the rehabilitation of Ryan, Doherty and Barry playgrounds as well as improvements to the Harvard Mall and Thompson and Hayes Squares.

ASSESSMENT BY SUB-NEIGHBORHOOD

Town Hill : The Bunker Hill Monument is located to the east of this national landmark district. Winthrop Square serves as the centerpiece of this tight residential community. Its large shade trees and low fence enable good use and easy physical access. The Harvard/Mall, a set of terraces covering nearly an acres has in addition to passive areas, historical features and a tot lot. The mall connects with what will be the new City Square park once the CANA project is completed in 1993.

While rich in passive are Town Hill area lacks diversity due to a shortage of easily accessible open space available for active recreation use like playgrounds to accommodate the fast expanding and economically transforming population. In addition there are no existing connections to the natural resources of the waterfront.

Bunker Hill / Little Mystic : In contrast to Town Hill, this area has an abundance of playgrounds and community facilities in Ryan, Doherty and Barry. In addition the Charlestown High School has a full complex of tennis and basket ball courts.

The potential of the Little Mystic remains unrealized except at Ryan Playground where a boardwalk along the waters edge is to be built. There is a pressing need to protect the existing urban wilds to enhance the ecosystems in the marsh, grass mud flats and shallow waters of the water channel which in turn needs a thorough

Charlestown Navy Yard : This area has in the last half decade developed as a distinct neighborhood with new moderate as well as luxury housing projects. Many of the historic buildings have been rehabed as office space to generate a substantial daytime population. While shipyard park has expanded into a family oriented facility the wharfs now have increased public access. The proposed new aquarium and the USS Constitution will bring further tourists to the yard.

Rutherford Avenue and The Neck : This area is on the western side of Charlestown, borders Somerville and dominated by transportation arteries. While there is a small residential enclave north of Cambridge Street most land uses are commercial or industrial. There are only a few open spaces. The Bunker Hill Community College is located in this area across from Phipps Street Cemetery.

DEMOGRAPHICS / HOUSING

Once home to a predominantly white blue-collar, Irish-American population, Charlestown has grown more economically and socially diverse. Housing and infrastructure improvements have attracted young professionals into the area and the current conversion of the Navy Yard is accelerating the process. In fact, between 1980 and 1990 the population of Charlestown increased from 13,364 to 14,717 persons. As a percentage increase this is a full 9%, more than any other neighborhood in Boston. Housing projects constitute a large portion of the total number of dwelling units in the neighborhood. Together, the Charles Newtowne, Mishawum Park and Bunker Hill projects have a total of over 1500 units, close to 20% of the total.

It is not clear yet whether Charlestown will continue to retain a stable population of long-term residents. An increasing number of units are being converted into rentals to be occupied by couples without children. According to a 1985 survey the median income for Charlestown was \$20,000 , slightly higher than the city average.

CHARLESTOWN : THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

The following objectives outline a future open space scenario for Charlestown with its central concerns being: to use the opportunities set up by transportation and development projects to consolidate and improve access to the existing system, to create a diversity of open space experiences for the neighborhood and to commence an environmental review of natural resources.

OPPORTUNITIES

Plan for a minimum of 50% of open space for the parcels to be made available from the CANA project in the Town Hill and Rutherford Avenue areas. Continue to work with the BRA and MDPW in the planning process. Ensure active recreation facilities in the use of these areas.

Realize the Little Mystic's potential through an environmental review, the clearing of unutilized parcels, the creation of a periphery walk and the revitalization of natural sites at the edges to develop it as a natural resource.

Utilize the model of the board walk at Ryan, Barry and other sites to improve public access to the water.

As part of the Charles River Crossing portion of the CA/THT project, mitigate the impact of proposed ramps and establish a safe and well defined access to the MDC's proposed new Paul Revere Landing Park from the North Washington Bridge area and across Rutherford Avenue.

Through Central Artery project mitigation monies, redevelop the Millers River or replace by a water based resource.

Unify the historic resources of Bunker Hill Monument, the Training Field and City Square into a cohesive and well connected sub-system through signage, and sidewalk connections with tree plantings.

Improve local residential access with the Charlestown Navy Yard by designating paths from the Chelsea street edge which wind their way into the Bunker Hill and Town Hill areas.

Preserve existing views of Charlestown's waterfront from within the neighborhood. Development projects have blocked public visual access to the waterfront at many locations.

environmental review. There is a demand for passive areas to serve the large older segment of the population in the area. The small Olmsted designed space at the edge of Doherty is inadequate.

Charlestown Navy Yard : The master plan for the yard proposes a internally self sufficient open space system with passive areas, pedestrian paths and small play areas. It will increase the existing 17 acres of open space to over 30 acres.

The need here is to open up the existing and proposed facilities at the yard to Charlestown residents by improving access. At present there is a lack of well defined entry into the Navy yard from the Bunker Hill and Town Hill sections of the city.

Rutherford Avenue and The Neck : This section of Charlestown has few open spaces and those that exist are in a state of disrepair. Abandoned or under utilized public land needs to be developed to serve the small residential population north of Cambridge street. To the south, the Phipps Street Cemetery has been isolated from surrounding land uses. The Millers river, has been polluted by encroaching industrial uses and has lost its vitality as a natural resource. Additional planning to make pedestrian connections to the Charles River Dam and Paul Revere Landing Park is required.

TABLE 1

**BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN CHARLESTOWN 1987-1991**

PARK	INVESTMENT
Barry Playground	\$86,000
Doherty Playground	\$214,000
Ryan Playground	\$560,000
Edwards Playground (I & II)	\$79,000
Hayes Square	\$250,000
Harvard Mall	\$86,000
Thompson Square	\$385,000
Cook Street Play Area	\$130,000
TOTAL	\$1,790,000

Support the zoning and design guidelines incorporated in the City of Boston's Municipal Harbor Plan, especially the requirement for 50% open space designation for all projects along the waterfront.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Continue to work with the MDPW and the community to build a 'new' City Square park and obtain monies for a fund to maintain the facility.

Construct a new play lot to be located possibly near Clinton Place, to replace the abandoned structure at Caldwell Street.

Install benches and bollards at the Training Field.

Develop a new street hockey court for Ryan as well as the field house at the playground.

Install security lighting at Phipps Street and Bunker Hill cemeteries.

Improve safety and handicapped access features at Doherty Playground. Secure additional funding for a new tot lot.

Examine the possibility of transfer of responsibility and resources for maintaining School Department playgrounds as well as MDC rink at Rutherford Avenue.

Further support for the Parks Partners program.

Establish a process by which community open space interests are represented in the planning process for the CANA parcels.

SOUTH END

1. THE SOUTH END NEIGHBORHOOD

HISTORY

As originally conceived in the 1850s, South End was to be a neighborhood of townhouses for wealthy merchants. Planners followed the English park model of residential squares in laying out the streets, with a large oval grass plot defining the center. At the turn of the century, however, the more affluent residents had been attracted to the fashionable Back Bay and the dense residential fabric was inherited by wave after wave of primarily working class immigrants as South End became the port-of-entry to more than 35 distinct linguistic groups. The neighborhood maintains till today much of the richly diverse and complex character that it developed at that time.

Urban renewal in general and the Prudential Center and Copley Place developments in particular unleashed powerful market forces which have resulted in the gradual gentrification of the South End starting in the mid 1960s. Furthermore, innovative projects like the Villa Victoria housing development and the South West Corridor Park and Tent City have had a positive impact on the quality of life in the community. The early 1990s and the next decade promise to revitalize South End's eastern sections with investment by the City to expand the city hospital and with the location of biotechnology related light manufacturing in the area.

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

Parallel arterials slice through South End's regular residential block grid connecting Boston's southern neighborhoods with the downtown areas. The character of land uses as well as the availability of open space resources varies as one moves across the area between these major roads. To the west of the neighborhood, the blocks adjacent to Columbus Avenue and Tremont Street have experienced almost a complete gentrification. New restaurants and stores have occupied many ground floor spaces. Carter Playground and Titus Sparrow Park provide active recreation facilities. The Southwest Corridor Park serves as pedestrian spine to the area, providing a link between Massachusetts Avenue and the Back Bay Station, in addition to tot lots, community gardens, courts and seating areas.

The area adjacent to Shawmut Avenue and Washington Street is relatively less affluent and dominated by the neighborhood's housing developments including the Villa Victoria complex. Located opposite

CHINATOWN

City-wide 1970 Census are available. In 1970, Chinatown had a population of 1,000. The 1980 Census shows a population of 1,500. The 1990 Census shows a population of 2,000. The 2000 Census shows a population of 2,500. The 2010 Census shows a population of 3,000. The 2020 Census shows a population of 3,500.

CHINATOWN

The Chinatown area is located in the center of the city. It is a small area, but it is very important. It is the heart of the city. It is the place where the people of the city live. It is the place where the people of the city work. It is the place where the people of the city play. It is the place where the people of the city love.

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THE CHINATOWN NEIGHBORHOOD

HISTORY

Chinatown/South Cove is located on landfill created from tidal flats in the early 1800s to provide additional housing for Boston's expanding middle-class population. In the 1840s original residents began to move out of the city. Newcomers were mainly Chinese, Irish, Italian, Jewish and Syrian immigrants who converted the homes to multi-unit tenements.

Non-residential uses developed on the edges of Chinatown such as South Station, the railroad lines and the 1899 construction of the elevated line along Washington Street. Many tenements were razed for expansion of the garment industry. After World War II, Chinese restaurants and specialty shops began to occupy ground floors of residential buildings and a tourist industry began to evolve.

Subsequently, many more housing units were lost due to urban renewal programs. Creation of the Southeast Expressway, the Massachusetts Turnpike, and an increase in traffic along Essex Street isolated the Chinese residents in the South End from those in South Cove. Old rowhouses were replaced with institutional-scale buildings and high-rise housing towers. Community isolation increased following the creation, in 1974, of the "Combat Zone" adult entertainment district which cut off Chinatown from the central business district as well as from Boston Common and the Public Garden.

PROFILE

Today, Chinatown exists on approximately one-half the land mass it once had, with a population that tripled between 1950 and 1987. The 1990s will be crucial years for the neighborhood in terms of pressures from without and within. The Midtown Cultural District Plan by the BRA may eliminate the Combat Zone, but is expected to double the downtown business and residential population to the west and north of Chinatown. Gains and losses to open land on the east and south of Chinatown are possible within transportation projects still in the design or planning stage: the Central Artery/Tunnel project, the South Station Transportation Center, and development of air rights over the Massachusetts Turnpike. Meanwhile the community struggles to provide housing for new immigrants, growing family and elderly populations, and non-Asians attracted by the proximity to downtown Boston.

DEMOGRAPHICS / HOUSING

City-wide 33% of Boston's residents are immigrants, in Chinatown 66% were born abroad. The population of 5,000 is 91% Chinese--from the mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Vietnamese, Cambodians and other Asians account for another 2%. Six of every 10 households are families. Of all families, 48% have children living with them and 21% of the children are age 5 or younger. Also, 41% of the families include at least one elder, 18% have two or more. Compared to the city as a whole, Chinatown has more families, children, and elderly residents. According to data available (1987) 42% of Chinatown household incomes earned below \$10,000, only 7% reported income above \$20,000. This compares to a city-wide median income (1985) of \$21,031.

The many 3-5 story, brick, 19th century residential buildings are characterized by shops and restaurants on the ground floor. Later and larger loft buildings frame the district on Beach Street, Hudson Street, Kneeland Street, and Harrison Avenue. In 1980 the area's median housing value was 87% higher than the city median. Over 95% of Chinatown's residential units are rental. Chinatown, by most measures of housing and population density, ranks the highest for overcrowding among Boston's neighborhoods. In 1985 households in Chinatown averaged 3.6 persons compared to 2.5 city-wide. Unit-sharing by families and adults is common with 25% of units containing 5 or more people; 94% of these same units have only one bedroom. When the population tripled (1950-1987), the major production of housing units only increased by 50% of the existing stock.

OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

EQUITY AND INVESTMENT

With under 3 acres of public open space in total for its 5,000 residents, Chinatown is seriously below the city-wide average of 5 acres of open space per 1,000 residents. Gateway Park, a paved plaza of .13 acres along Hudson Street bordering the Surface Artery, is the main public open space in Chinatown. Oak Street has a small community garden. On Tai Tung Street a small passive area was recently transferred from the BRA to the Parks Department after benches were removed to discourage vacrancy. Oxford Street has a pocket park. Both Tai Tung Village and Mass. Pike Towers have courtyards. Acorn Day Care Center has a tot lot. Statler Park, Lincoln Square, and Elliot Norton Park account for an additional 1.3 acres but they are shared with the greater downtown community.

Pagoda Park, across Kneeland Street to the south, adds another 1.47 acres with three courts and a modest amount of passive green space. Due to Pagoda Park's location, it is used largely by teens. A concern for Pagoda Park, owned by the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, is interruption of park facilities and use for construction of the South Station Transportation Center bus ramps.

TABLE 1

CITY OF BOSTON
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN CHINATOWN 1987-1991

<u>Park</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Gateway	\$225,000

ASSESSMENT

Squeezed within the downtown area, Chinatown is a community with extremely challenging land use demands, very little green space, and few public recreational facilities. There are compelling needs for additional passive and active recreational areas for extended family groups including young children, adolescents, teens, and the elderly.

There is no public children's playground in Chinatown, no park catering to the below teen age population. Similarly, there is virtually no place for the elderly to congregate outside of housing courtyards. When vagrants dominate Gateway Park most community users stay away. Pagoda Park serves teens almost exclusively because it has no passive park attractions and is across a major traffic thoroughfare from Chinatown proper. Other parks are also near to but not within Chinatown. Eliot Norton Park must be redesigned for usable facilities and for visibility. The closest green spaces to Chinatown are Lincoln Square and Statler Park which function as squares, plus the Common and the Public Garden which serve the whole city and virtually all of its visitors.

CHINATOWN: THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

For additional open space Chinatown must look to air rights over the Massachusetts Turnpike and to land connected with the Central Artery/Tunnel project. Given the density of Chinatown and its serious housing needs, competition for land use will continue to be fierce. Residents must also look to their neighbors at Tufts Medical Center and New England Medical Center and to the Midtown Cultural District for further open space options. The next decade holds promise of easing the situation if public benefit packages for projects in the planning and design stages can establish additional quality open space.

OPPORTUNITIES

Improve existing facilities and develop additional facilities in and accessible to Chinatown. Support the open space objectives of the Chinatown Community Plan (Boston Redevelopment Authority, 1990).

Utilize the Central Artery design and review process to create additional open space. Focus on areas along Hudson Street and near the I-90/I-93 interchange.

Use air rights over the Massachusetts Turnpike to establish viable open space facilities for Chinatown residents.

Create active and passive community open space on rooftops (like Quincy School), in courtyards, and so forth by partnerships with institutional and other developers in and accessible to Chinatown.

Explore all options in Chinatown and around it, specifically in the Midtown Cultural District, to provide additional open space for the community.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

In conjunction with local businesses explore the possibility of closing off streets for recreational use more often than just for the August Moon Festival.

To meet immediate needs for additional open space, explore lease options such as for the four parcels on Hudson Street where buildings were recently razed, at South Station and behind the Wang Building.

Maintain existing active sports facilities. Pagoda Park, the only and very popular multi-use ball park in Chinatown, must remain accessible and at least partially usable during transportation projects. The design of such projects should include reorganization of Pagoda Park for maximum playing space.

Explore the creation of a ball field in or near Chinatown as part of the public benefits package of pending projects including the Central Artery/Tunnel, the South Station Transportation Center, and Massachusetts Turnpike air rights development.

Form partnerships to assist with management and maintenance of open space in and for Chinatown; Beach Street and Gateway Park are among the specific candidates for partnership groups.

Enhance streetscapes, with banners on street light posts or with container plantings in planters and flower boxes.

Gateway Park - Address immediate security and safety problems, such as garbage and conflicts with vagrants.

Tai Tung Street Seating Area - Redesign open space across from Tai Tung Village to provide more usable open space.

Elliot Norton Park - Redesign the park to correct safety and security problems and provide quality open space which addresses the needs of Chinatown.

Lincoln Square - Improve the landscaping around the Emancipation Group statue.

1. THE EAST BOSTON NEIGHBORHOOD

HISTORY

Originally known as Noodles Island and essentially an agricultural community, East Boston began to develop an industrial base after being connected by ferry with downtown Boston in 1833. This prompted the construction of a rail system along the neighborhood that would serve neighboring communities. From 1840 to 1865 East Boston began to expand rapidly, becoming a major transportation area and shipping port and attracting a large number of immigrants. The population climbed dramatically at this time as well-to-do laborers occupied modest dwellings in the Maverick Square area while wealthier residents build their homes on the hillsides.

In 1905 the first subway tunnel to downtown Boston was opened. However, with the development of Logan airport in 1923 and the Sumner Tunnel in 1934, and due to other transportation related projects the neighborhood was severely impacted, local industrial facilities began to decline in favor of airport related development, and many families left for the suburbs. Today, despite such pressures, East Boston has stabilized as a neighborhood and in the coming years will have many new investments geared toward public facilities. The new Third Harbor Tunnel could reduce airport bound traffic in residential streets.

SUB-NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILES

East Boston can be divided into four distinct geographic areas :

Eagle Hill : Bordered by Chelsea River, the Inner Harbor and by the McClellan Highway this is a primarily residential area with some abandoned industrial uses along the waterfront. Small open spaces like Prescott and Putnam Squares are located at street grid corners. American Legion playground accommodates active recreation needs. The area is one of East Boston's most stable sections, with many of the homes here having been occupied by the same families for generations.

Maverick Square : Roughly the triangular area between Central Square, LoPresti Park and Maverick Square it contains an incongruent mix of residential and industrial uses. The Square itself has been a center for neighborhood commerce. LoPresti Park which has courts and access to the water is located next to the 1500 resident Maverick housing development. Central and Maverick Squares are dominated by traffic and commercial uses.

2. OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

EQUITY AND INVESTMENT

The 98 acres of parks, playgrounds, squares and malls under Parks Department and other public ownership in East Boston constitute about 3% of Boston's total of such open space. This does not compare well with the neighborhood's share of the city's total population, which is 6%. Seen in terms of the number of acres per thousand persons, this translates to 3 acres compared with the city average of 5.5. This lack of equity in the availability of open space in East Boston will be made up somewhat by the 30 new acres of open space proposed in the Piers and Bremen Street park projects. The over 300 acres of marsh area in East Boston have not been included in the above figures.

The City of Boston's Parks Department has invested over 6 million dollars in open space improvements through the five year capital plan spread over thirteen facilities [Table 1]. These include the complete rehabilitation of the American Legion, Noyes and East Boston Stadium facilities as well as an appropriation to rebuild LoPresti Park by 1992 end.

ASSESSMENT BY SUB-NEIGHBORHOOD

Eagle Hill : Like much of East Boston this area while rich in history and future potential is currently lacking in the availability of diverse recreational resources. This is especially true for the densely residential streets between Maverick and Day Squares, with the nearest ball field being at the Memorial Stadium. The Chelsea River and inner harbor edges also remain inaccessible and undeveloped.

Maverick Square : The public housing development in the area will be well served with the completion of improvements to LoPresti Park in 1992 and add to the gym facilities at Paris Street. The 'walk to the sea' mall from Maverick Square suffers from inattention and lack of development.

Jeffries Point : This area also remains relatively isolated from active recreation facilities with airport-related highway ramps separating the residents from the Memorial Stadium. Access to the waterfront is currently lacking, despite decade long plans to develop the piers for parkland.

Orient Heights / Harborview : This section of East Boston has the full range of open space resources from well maintained active recreation parks to extensive marsh lands. However, pedestrian connections between different facilities are lacking and many of the natural areas unprotected.

3. EAST BOSTON : THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

While a combination of transportation facilities and industrial uses have severely impacted the quality of life in East Boston, the coming decade promises to reverse this trend if new proposals focus on the strengthening and interlocking of two latent open space systems. First, the creation of buffers along proposed transportation corridors for coordinated open space use. Second, the extension of such corridors to parks, beaches and designated walkways along the harborfront. Such a framework would be considerably enhanced by the integration of a third component, mainly access to the vast salt marshes that can be found in the area.

OPPORTUNITIES

In relation to improvements to the McClellan Highway, utilize the Park and Fly parking lot site designated by agreement to buffer CA/THT project as a 10 acre park with a diversity of open space uses along Bremen Street.

Develop a linear park in the corridor currently occupied by unused Conrail tracks between Marginal and Porter Streets, linking the Airport 'T' Station and Maverick Square with East Boston's waterfront.

Enhance access to Memorial Stadium facilities from the Jeffries Point area in conjunction with the expansion of the stadium as proposed by the CA/THT project.

Depress the existing Porter Street ramps leading to the tunnel portals and of the toll both to eliminate pollution from stationary vehicles.

Create a continuous Harborwalk from Porzio Park at Jeffries Point to LoPresti Park in the Maverick area.

In collaboration with Massport develop parkland at Piers 3 and 4 and provide support to the proposed Citizen's Advisory Committee to oversee the project.

Develop Orient Heights Beach as a recreational and cultural resource. Support the activities of the Joint Beach Commission established by the Mayor and the Governor.

Support proposed housing in the area by exploring the use of the old Boston East site north of LoPresti Park for an open space facility. Initiate a clean-up of the hazardous waste on the site.

Jeffries Point : A largely residential area to the south of the East Boston Memorial Stadium it has a long waterfront directly facing downtown Boston. While some piers have maritime uses most are underutilized or abandoned. This is one of the oldest and most densely settled areas of the neighborhood dominated by triple-decker rowhouses. Brophy Park has a small passive area and the rest of the open space facilities are dominated by courts and sitting areas. Porzio Park provides access to the water.

Orient Heights / Harborview : The northern most area of the city of Boston it has the Orient Heights housing development as well as a number of single-family homes. (The rest of East Boston has multiple family homes.) It is characterized by gently sloping hills to and from the water with the housing situated on well defined terraces. Available open space facilities have a rich diversity and include a large playground (Noyes), saltwater marshes, Orient Height Beach, a cemetery and small play areas. However, Wood Island, a 65 acre Olmsted designed park was taken from this neighborhood to make way for a new runway for the airport.

DEMOGRAPHICS / HOUSING

While East Boston still maintains its Italian-American flavor and spirit with succeeding generations continuing to stay in the neighborhood, dramatic changes are taking shape. The Hispanic population of the neighborhood jumped from a mere 942 in 1980 to close to 6,000 (or 18% of the East Boston's total population) in 1990, the largest increase in the city. Most of these new families are settling in the Maverick Square area. The total population itself increased by 2.4% to almost 33,000, indicating signs of stability after three decades of steady decrease.

A majority of East Boston's housing stock is comprised of triple-deckers with little yard space. The Maverick and Orient Heights housing developments along with the Heritage Housing complex at Maverick Square make up the bulk of assisted rentals. While the median income is lower than the city average the neighborhood also has fewer households with access to a vehicle compared to Boston as a whole, 45% compared to 39%.

According to a 1985 BRA survey East Boston has a higher than average percentage of elderly residents as well as strong indications that the residential areas have a stable population. 36% of its households had lived in the same house for 16 years or longer.

TABLE 1

**BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN EAST BOSTON 1987-1992**

PARK	INVESTMENT
American Legion Playground	\$334,000
East Boston Memorial Stadium	\$215,000
Noyes Playground	\$509,000
McLean Playground	\$121,000
Paris Street Playground	\$44,000
Putnam Square	\$12,000
Porzio Park	\$44,000
Bennington St. Cemetery	\$50,000
Memorial Stadium Building	\$321,000
Porzio Park II	\$173,000
Prescott Square	\$200,000
American Legion Wall	\$102,000
Saratoga St Play Area	\$250,000
LoPresti Park	\$3,460,000
Sumner and Lamson	\$250,000
TOTAL	\$6,085,000

Supporting the work of the MDC, enhance the existing natural resources along East Boston's extensive waterfront through a stabilization program which includes a strategy to save unprotected urban wilds.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Build a soccer field in the neighborhood using the car barn site near American Legion Playground.

Install new playground equipment at Noyes Playground as well as meet the demand for a fieldhouse through increased access to the Orient Heights Recreation Center or through a new facility.

Stabilize the Condor Street Urban Wild with a sea wall and create a passive/naturalized environment. Pursue design and engineering studies as well as coordinate fund raising to see this project realized.

Provide programs and facilities for informal sports like volleyball, frisbee, paddleball, touch football etc. to encourage group activities for teenagers.

Stabilize the piers of LoPresti playground to allow for small scale water access for the neighborhood.

Evaluate the future of the fieldhouse at American Legion Playground.

Do an analysis of vacant land in the Eagle Hill area especially at street intersections for new open space similar in scale to those at Prescott and Putnam Squares.

Evaluate the demand for street hockey for public housing projects.

As part of the Massachusetts Turnpike Reclamation Project support their plans to improve parcels at Decatur, Havre and Porter Streets adjacent to the tunnel portals.

FENWAY/KENMORE

THE FENWAY / KENMORE NEIGHBORHOOD

HISTORY

The Fenway and Kenmore communities date from approximately a century ago, created on the last land to be filled for neighborhood growth in Boston. In the latter half of the 1800s the tidal areas at the confluence of the Muddy River and Charles River consisted of swamps and mudflats which had become a sanitary concern due to the city's tremendous growth.

Frederick Law Olmsted simultaneously solved a major drainage / sewage problem and created a park system for the city, now known as the Emerald Necklace. Tidal gates were installed for the Muddy River and Stoney Brook, a sewerage interceptor was built below the Fens Basin and the surrounding land was reshaped to create parkland. Park and streetcar development stimulated the westward expansion of Boston proper. The Fens parkland divided the area: Kenmore developed to the north and west; Fenway and the Longwood Medical Area developed to the south and east.

SUB-NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILES

The neighborhood includes three distinct geographic areas:

Kenmore: The western sector of the neighborhood is bordered by Beacon Street, the Town of Brookline, the Allston-Brighton community, the Charles River and the Muddy River. Kenmore Square developed with fine hotels, shops and professional offices flanking the streetcar tracks. Close to the river on Bay State Road, townhouses were built for affluent families. The Audobon Circle area had large apartment buildings along Beacon Street and the streetcar line. West of Kenmore Square, Commonwealth Avenue was slow to develop. Temple Adath Israel stood virtually alone following the turn of the century. Automobile showrooms lined Commonwealth Avenue starting in the teens. Boston University purchased the last unbuilt tract of land in 1920 and raised the residential height limit, but did not begin to build the campus for another twenty years. Many extant buildings, including car showrooms, have been converted to either campus or support facilities. The Back Bay West/Bay State Road Historic District affords protection by the city as does the Landmark designation for Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

Public open space is limited to the Charles River embankment, Commonwealth Avenue Mall and Audobon Circle. Some additional open space is provided by Boston University, most visibly with the Marsh Chapel plaza, connections between buildings from the river embankment to Commonwealth Avenue, and by Nickerson Field.

Fenway: This central part of the community area is located between the Fens, Audobon Circle, the Longwood Medical Area, and Mission Hill. Brownstone and brick residences typify the Symphony and Ruggles areas, apartment blocks identify the streetscape along the Fenway parkway. The Peterborough and Audobon Circle areas have large apartment buildings. Institutions including the Christian Science Center, the Massachusetts Historical Society, Symphony Hall, the Boston Medical Society, Horticultural Hall, the New England Conservatory of Music, Simmons College and the Isabella Stewart Gardner house were built in the 1890s and early 1900s.

Open space is dominated by the 78-acre Fens parkland, although there are some vest pocket parks and squares. The Back Bay Fens is a designated city Landmark.

Longwood Medical Area: Within the larger neighborhood, LMA comprises the southern sector, bounded by the Emerald Necklace, the Fenway community and the Mission Hill neighborhood. Overall LMA reads as a large institutional campus presence, which has been developing since the turn of the century. Notable facilities in LMA include Harvard Medical School, several major Boston-area hospitals and medical institutions, five schools including three colleges, and Temple Israel. It employs 35,000 people. There is a residential community as well, mostly comprised of employees and students.

Open space is dominated by the southern Fens and the northern Riverway parklands. Smaller open spaces exist alongside and in between buildings. Jurisdiction regarding open space is merged between institutions, public and private entities to create a unified system with maximum public access which is coordinated through the efforts of MASCO, the Medical Area Service Corp.

DEMOGRAPHICS / HOUSING

Density is high in the Fenway/Kenmore area as in all central Boston neighborhoods. Approximately 40% of the population lives in group quarters including college dormitories, this is 1/3 of Boston's total group quarters population. With so many students, 43% of the population is aged 15-24 years; the median age of 24.7 years is the lowest for any Boston neighborhood. Another 30% of the residents are age 25-34; there are relatively few children, middle-age or elderly residents. The high student population plays into the low median income of \$16,300 (in 1985) compared to a city-wide median of \$19,250 and low stability, 2/3 of the residents have lived in their dwelling place for less than two years. The mix of the area's population in terms of ethnicity and origins is 52% white, 15% African American, 8% Latino, and 25% Asian.

Fenway/Kenmore had almost 13,000 housing units in 1985 and by that year condominiums comprised 20% of the area's housing units. However, dormitories and rentals push owner occupancy way down to 1% of the area's units. Assistance through federal and or state programs provides subsidies for 11% of the units.

OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

Like Back Bay/Beacon Hill, this area has very few neighborhood parks and playgrounds. As noted above, most of its parklands and recreational facilities are located along the Charles River Esplanade (MDC), or within the Emerald Necklace Parks of Commonwealth Avenue Mall, the Fens, and the Riverway. There are some smaller parks in the Fenway and the Longwood Medical Area.

EQUITY AND INVESTMENT

Fenway/Kenmore has 3.51 acres of open space for each 1,000 residents compared to 5.55 acres city-wide. Put another way, in this neighborhood 3.5% of Boston's public open space serves 5.6% of the city's population. To increase the amount of open space the future must include private participation. In one case this will return the former Sears parking lot to the city-owned Emerald Necklace park system. It can also include public access to college and other institutional facilities.

In the past five years various agencies have contributed to capital improvements for public parks for a total of \$1,086,949. City funds were provided through the Capital Plan and the Trust Office. Other agencies which contributed included the MBTA for Kenmore Square and the State Department of Environmental Management for the Back Bay Fens. See Table 1, below.

TABLE 1

BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION/CITY CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN FENWAY/KENMORE 1987-1991

<u>PARK</u>	<u>INVESTMENT</u>
Commonwealth Av. Mall	\$ 380,000
Johnson Memorial Gates	30,000
Westland Avenue Triangle	145,000
Back Bay Fens	<u>1,561,949</u>
Total	\$2,116,949

ASSESSMENT BY SUB-NEIGHBORHOODS

Kenmore: Commonwealth Avenue and Audobon Circle provide important visual relief. Beacon Street will benefit from improved landscape design and care around Audobon Circle. The Kenmore Square end of Commonwealth Avenue Mall must continue to be maintained to a high level through the combined efforts of the city and the MBTA. Extraordinary care, with the combined efforts of MDC, the city and community must also continue to meet the needs of the very heavily used Charles River Reservation. Boston University can mitigate the burden it places on the area's existing public parkland by offering maintenance assistance and also by providing general community access to its own recreational facilities.

Fenway: This part of this community has access to one of the city's premier parks, the Back Bay Fens. However, city jurisdiction must equitably manage competing uses and assure that maintenance can address the wear caused by heavy use. Broad based public/private capital investments will be needed to continue to make improvements in the Fens. Community / institutional joint ventures must provide additional open space facilities such as public tot lots and recreational facilities within housing developments.

Longwood Medical Area: MASCO's presence here and strong open space planning efforts will continue to be essential. The city will participate to develop and maintain a connected open space system and a greener "campus" environment. This includes a focus on parks, squares, plazas and street trees. The cooperation of MASCO, the city, MDC and the community on an ongoing basis will also assure continued implementation of improvements in Olmsted Park and the Riverway in accordance with the Emerald Necklace Master Plan.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

To mitigate pressures and stresses from high use, the Fenway/Kenmore area needs to maximize its protection and care of its precious existing facilities. The community must supplement overuse and competing use of the public parks with access to institutional and private facilities since the availability of land for additional open space use appears very unlikely in the foreseeable future.

OPPORTUNITIES

Continue to rehabilitate existing park facilities. Follow the Emerald Necklace Master Plan, Emerald Necklace Sign Plan and Adopt-a-Statue Program. Support MASCO's Open Space Plan re. improvements in the Longwood Medical area.

Coordinate and encourage public/private coalitions re. maintenance for the Emerald Necklace, Longwood Medical Area and community gardens and neighborhood parks.

Improve connections to and between parks. In conjunction with the adjacent building development, return the Sears parking lot to city-owned parkland. Continue to reinforce the treatment of parkways as part of adjacent parks, as they were originally intended and as they are treated today. Take advantage of any roadway projects and work with transportation agencies to implement improvements at both ends of the Fens.

Continue to enhance Boston Parks Department maintenance resources, especially for turf management, Olmstedian plantings, routine care of park elements and graffiti removal.

Institutionalize care and planting of trees in the parks and along the parkways and streets. Use the Emerald Necklace master plan to create a tree planting plan for the Riverway and Fens; use it as a shopping list for a tree giving program. Plant trees in the Fens and Riverway annually and follow-up with proper care for new trees; coordinate with the MDC parkway tree planting plan. Establish cyclical care for existing trees, including pruning and removal of dead trees.

Manage competing uses and over-use. Follow the Emerald Necklace Master Plan and other established Parks Department policies regarding specific areas and facilities, especially in the Fens.

Seek cooperative agreements as well as alternative locations for additional publicly accessible play areas, ball fields and courts, notably with colleges and with hospitals.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Continue and expand security efforts. Implement measures called for in the Emerald Necklace Master Plan such as added lighting, bridge replacement and added call boxes or phones.

Continue to cut phragmites (reeds) on regular schedule to retain visibility and views and avoid further choking off of the waterway.

Continue to implement rehabilitation plans for the Fens and Riverway with an emphasis on restoring vegetation and water quality. Review all proposed work with the community and agencies with jurisdiction.

Strengthen established community/city communications. Continue to review proposed capital projects through park partner and friends groups, neighborhood groups, open space organizations, and park user groups. Utilize the Emerald Necklace Advisory Board and park-specific task forces as community liaisons. Expand roles of existing community groups regarding extraordinary maintenance.

Riverway - Rehabilitate pathways, revegetate the entire area, improve water quality, address security. Continue MASCO/Parks Department partnership to implement master plan projects.

Fens - Rehabilitate Clemente Field. Address over-use issues without creating more active recreation. Remove graffiti from Clemente Field House and rehabilitate it. Address security problems especially at Mother's Rest, in the Victory Gardens, on Agassiz Road by the bridge, and at the basketball courts and Clemente Field. Designate quiet/passive recreation areas. Commit to plant trees annually. Develop signage program for bicycle safety. Install drinking fountains, such as at basketball courts, Victory Gardens and Mother's Rest play area. Pursue all avenues to improve Muddy River water quality.

Park Drive - MDC to improve the quality of the area near Boylston Street across from the Victory Gardens.

Kenmore Square - Repair vandalized Lombard light.

Boylston Street - Support Boston Public Works Department plan to implement improvements, such as tree planting in 1200 block.

HISTORY

The last town annexed to Boston (in 1912), Hyde Park's history illustrates that it had an identity and life of its own, while at the same time coming under the influence of Boston. It had a manufacturing base early on, in the early eighteenth century, as well as residential and commercial development. That manufacturing base was dependent on the major water resource of Hyde Park -- the Neponset River, which was enhanced by the Mother Brook canal, built in the mid-1800's to connect the Neponset to the Charles. The first dam and paper mill was built in 1714 along the Neponset, near where the current Diamond International plant is located. By the late 1800's, industry (paper and cotton mills, and toher factories) grew rapidly from the available water power that the town population grew a startling 900% from 1512 persons in 1887 to 15,000 persons in 1912. Thanks to the extension of rail lines and the proximity to major highways, manufacturing continues to have a large plant in Hyde Park's economy. A paper recycling plant has recently been located in Hyde Park.

Another factor in the rapid population growth of Hyde Park in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century was the introduction of the trolley and rail lines to and from Boston. New residents who worked not in Hyde Park but in Boston sought the grassy lawns and lower density housing now available in Hyde Park. The pull toward Boston was now taking hold. Dissatisfied with town water rates and service, Hyde Park voted to join Boston in 1911.

Hyde Park provided the backdrop for events in the women's suffrage and abolition movements. Speaking out for human rights were such Hyde Park residents as Angelina and Sarah Grimke, Mehitable Sunderland, the first doctor in Hyde Park, and Theodore Weld. The first black regiment mustered for the Civil War, the Massachusetts 54th, subject of the movie "Glory," were trained at Camp Meigs in Hyde Park, as was James Munroe Trotter, the first black officer of the American Army.

Absorbed into Boston, Hyde Park yet maintains a sense of its own independent spirit and identity. Residents were so dissatisfied with the Southwest Expressway proposal that in 1962, they petitioned their legislators to secede from Boston and to join Norfolk County. While the effort failed in the legislature, the expressway proposal itself also failed.

DEMOGRAPHICS/HOUSING

The big demographic trend in Hyde Park is that of the 16 BRA-designated neighborhoods, only one other neighborhood, Charlestown (which started with a much smaller 1980 population base), grew by a larger percentage in the ten years between 1980 and 1990. Hyde Park grew by a whopping 8.0% from 30,223

in 1980 to 32,644 in 1990. This compares with Boston's 2.0% population growth, and with losses in such comparable neighborhoods as West Roxbury (-5.2%) and Roslindale (-7.1%).

The background which may help explain the phenomenal growth is Hyde Park's minority population increase, particularly blacks and Hispanics. In search of family-oriented housing opportunities, these groups have migrated to Hyde Park's eastern sections, most likely from Mattapan. The black (23%) and Hispanic (6%) share of Hyde Park's racial/ethnic mix is comparable to Boston's as a whole (black, 25%; Hispanic, 7%) (1985 BRA/PFD Household Survey).

Hyde Park remains a family-oriented neighborhood. Its 1985 average household size is 2.9 persons, larger than Boston's 2.4 figure. Its 1985 age pyramid is shaped like an "hourglass:" the age cohorts at the top (35-54 and 55 and over) and at the bottom (0-14) are a larger share than for Boston, and are a smaller share than for the age cohorts of 15-24 and 25-34. The dominant household types are traditional couples and families: in 1985, 66% of households were of such type, versus 36% for Boston. The Hyde Park median household income of \$27,400 was exceeded by only two neighborhoods, Back Bay/Beacon Hill and Central Boston, and is above Boston's median household income of \$21,031. Poverty has affected a much smaller percentage of persons and families in Hyde Park than in the city of Boston as a whole. Unrelated individuals, however, have been affected by poverty in percentages comparable to Boston. Again reflecting its family-based character, Hyde Park's population has a higher percentage of people born in Massachusetts than does Boston, and a generally higher proportion of people who have lived in their current dwelling unit than Boston.

The number of housing units increased by 8.0% from 1980 (10,979) to 1985 (11,817). The predominant housing types are owner-occupied 1-4 dwelling unit buildings and private apartment 1-4 dwelling unit buildings: a neighborhood of triple-deckers and single family homes. Again, this supports the family-oriented, lower density profile of Hyde Park.

OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

EQUITY & INVESTMENT

Hyde Park has a total of 619.57 acres in its open space inventory of parks, playgrounds, squares, and malls both under Parks Department and other public jurisdictions (see Inventory). This is the largest total open space acreage in a Boston neighborhood. This constitutes a 19.5% share of the

city's total open space. Hyde Park's share of Boston's total population is 5.7%, comparable to many other neighborhoods. Seen another way, these figures translate into 18.98 acres per thousand persons, way above the city average of 5.55 acres. A recent change in the inventory of publicly-accessible open space was the acquisition by the MDC of a portion of the Boundary II urban wild (17.5 acres). This parcel is adjacent to the MDC's Stony Brook Reservation.

The City of Boston's Parks Department invested close to \$1.0 million in improving its four recreation facilities in Hyde Park. Amatucci, Iacono, and Ross were rehabilitated early in the new capital program. McGann Playground will begin rehabilitation next year. (While McGann is located in the BRA-designated Roslindale district, its service area is entirely in Hyde Park.)

TABLE 1

BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN HYDE PARK, 1987-1991

PARK	INVESTMENT
Amatucci Playground	\$158,000
Iacono Playground	\$168,000
Ross Playground	\$444,000
McGann Playground	\$115,000

ASSESSMENT

The large amount of open space in Hyde Park affords it great diversity -- downtown squares, playing fields and courts, as well as the solitude provided by remote natural areas, are all available in this neighborhood. The largest holder of open space in this neighborhood (600 acres) is the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC). Their major holdings are in two reservations -- the Stony Brook and the Neponset River. Along with the Sprague Pond urban wild, access via motor vehicle is the general rule for these natural lands.

The active recreation facilities are spread among the MDC and the city Parks and Recreation Department. Iacono in the Readville (southwest) area and Ross in the northeast portion of Hyde Park provide a wide variety of activities from basketball and tennis courts (and street hockey in Ross), to baseball and softball fields, and children's playlots in both. MDC

facilities help to supplement these city facilities, particularly Kelly Field, which includes soccer and football fields as well as baseball and softball fields.

Most open spaces in Hyde Park are located west of Hyde park Avenue and the Penn Central tracks -- two access barriers lying side-by-side, splitting this neighborhood in two. Large residential areas west of these north-south transportation corridors have few close-to-home recreation areas available. This is critical in terms of children's playlots. Another major factor in assessing open space in Hyde Park is the type of open space available. The proportion of open space devoted to natural areas is large indeed. Without the natural areas of the MDC Stony Brook and Neponset River Reservations, Hyde Park's percentage of the city's total open space falls from 19.5% to 2.0%; acreage per thousand persons falls from 18.98 acres to 2.11 acres. However, the near-ubiquitous presence of private backyard space, and the presence of schoolyards helps to ameliorate this deficiency, making it much less keenly felt than in more dense, highly urbanized neighborhoods.

Residential growth in Hyde Park has increased over the past decade. Given the localized deficiency and increasing population, use pressure has built up on the neighborhood's facilities. The recent investment by the city in its facilities has resulted in increased use. Yet the predominance of MDC facilities means the state's recent financial condition has impacted this area's access to recreational opportunities. As can be seen in the Community Priorities section below, Hyde Park's residents are aware of this impact. Given the strength and stability of Hyde Park's residential areas; the opportunities for acquiring additional facilities are extremely limited. Improvement of all existing facilities will help minimize the flaws in spatial distribution of open space.

The unique open space in Hyde Park is the MDC Stony Brook Reservation. It is a regional facility containing vast natural tracts crisscrossed by trails and paths, parking for visitors, and a pond (Turtle Pond) with a fishing dock. No other neighborhood can match the trail-oriented, natural-resource-based outdoor recreation it provides. Perhaps additional programming would make this facility more well-used by a wider group of city residents and visitors.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Almost all of Hyde Park's city-owned parks have been rehabilitated in the last five years through the Rebuilding Boston capital improvements program. Maintenance of this city investment is a key desire of the community. Hyde Park possesses natural areas along the shores of the Mother Brook and the Neponset River. Improving access to such significant open space resources will be an important planning theme. Improving the supply of facilities in underserved areas of Hyde park will be another theme. Upgrading the aesthetics of major thoroughfares to match the green character of its residential neighborhoods will help complete the open space menu for Hyde Park.

OPPORTUNITIES

- o Work with the MDC to increase access, both linear and point access, to the banks of the Mother Brook in the MDC Stony Brook Reservation and the MDC Neponset River Reservation. Public safety should remain a prime consideration. Look at streets which connect River Street to the Neponset, and bridges which cross it, for access opportunities.
- o Take measures to clean the Dana Avenue Urban Wild at Walnut Street and provide public access that limits misuse of the site for dumping. This riverbank site on the Neponset is in the dense Cleary Square sub-neighborhood, and close to the Fairmount Hills commuter rail stop.
- o Work with the MBTA to improve access to the Neponset at the Fairmount Hills commuter rail stop. An attractive fence and seating area would make this site a destination for non-commuters as well as waiting commuters.
- o Improve access to the Mother Brook. Improve pedestrian connection between MDC facilities on and near the Mother Brook (Colella Playground, Factory Hill Playground, Kelly Field) at River Street. Investigate traffic improvements to enable users to safely cross River Street between these sites.
- o Improve the usability of school yards for afterschool use by neighborhood residents. This would enable certain areas with few open space resources, particularly active children's play spaces, to develop a greater diversity of open space.
- o Green-up and make more bicycle-friendly such major thoroughfares as Hyde Park Avenue, River Street, Cummins Highway, Greenfield/Rector Road, and Poplar/Canterbury Street.

- o Support MDC's efforts to implement its master plan for environmental protection, recreational use, and public access along the Neponset River.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

- o Protect the significant capital investments accomplished in the Parks under BPRD jurisdiction with the consistent maintenance standard developed in the recent past.
- o Keep public safety a priority, particularly at Ross Field. Develop more multiple use activities at the sites affected. Make strategic use of Urban Park Ranger patrols. Work with the Municipal Police and the Police Department to develop adequate response.
- o Provide lighting at Iacono (a/k/a Readville or St. Ann's). Investigate feasibility of an electrical hookup for a pitching machine at Iacono.
- o Investigate use of prototype fieldhouse for use in playgrounds in Hyde Park.
- o Support the MDC's efforts to improve maintenance of its Hyde Park playgrounds and parks. With a significant portion of this neighborhood's open space in MDC hands, recreation opportunities will improve when a consistent standard of maintenance is implemented by the MDC.
- o Protect and nurture urban wilds such as Sherrin Street through maintenance by Parks Department and continued programming.

HISTORY

Jamaica Plain was originally part of the Town of Roxbury, but the secession of West Roxbury in 1851 included Jamaica Plain in the new town. In fact, what we now know as Jamaica Plain was the most developed area of the Town of West Roxbury. The village had developed along its earliest major streets, Centre Street and Washington Street. In the latter half of the 18th century, wealthy citizens built summer estates in what was even then known as scenic Jamaica Plain. Jamaica Pond was the major water source for Boston from 1795 to 1845.

The wholly bucolic character of Jamaica Plain began to change by the mid-1800's. In 1834, a rail line in the Western Stony Brook valley made the Stony Brook's water power accessible. Industrial development followed. Cottages for workers were built. Commuters to Boston were now able to live in Jamaica Plain on the farms and estates subdivided for housing. With the extension of streetcar service from Roxbury to West Roxbury along Centre and Washington Streets, more modestly middle class commuters were able to move in, accelerating the subdivision of large tracts and tying the village's fate further to Boston. By 1873, West Roxbury had voted to annex itself to Boston.

Jamaica Plain was less intensively developed than Roxbury and most of Dorchester. Its most intensively developed districts were in the area of Centre Street, Green Street, and the Stony Brook valley rail line, and the area near Franklin Park. Triple-deckers were built near the Roxbury line and the manufacturing districts near Hyde Square and the Stony Brook valley. Elsewhere, single- and two-family detached houses predominated. The commercialization of Centre Street supported residential growth, as did the development of churches.

With the decrease in rural character in the mid-1800's, open space began to emerge as a means to maintain the community's desirable qualities. Even before the development of a formal park system, open space was developed. Forest Hills Cemetery, a rural cemetery modelled on Mount Auburn Cemetery, was introduced in 1848. Bussey gave 250 acres to Harvard University in 1842 for what became Arnold Arboretum. Olmsted later designed it to fit with the rest of the Emerald Necklace landscape. The first plans for the Emerald Necklace parks were developed in 1876. As a result, the already scenic lands of this area were preserved and enhanced, providing an escape from the pressures of the urbanizing environment of late 19th century Jamaica Plain.

Since World War II, new residential development has mainly been of the multi-family apartment type such as the high-rise luxury Jamaicaway Towers and the low-rise Bromley-Heath BHA housing complex. Suburban-style single-family housing has been built in the Jamaica Hills area, southwest of Jamaica Pond.

With the completion of the Orange Line, the MDC Southwest Corridor Park (27 acres in Jamaica Plain), and the reinvestment represented by new homebuyers of houses and condominium conversions, Jamaica Plain in the 1980's became a very desirable neighborhood in which to live. Open space, mass transit access, and tree-lined relatively low-scaled residential streets attracted new residents, but has put pressure on long-time lower-income and elderly residents to match the housing prices generated by the new demand. The ethnic and economic mix of people, many of whom have a strong feeling of community, has made Jamaica Plain one of Boston's most vibrant neighborhoods.

DEMOGRAPHICS/HOUSING

There has been a turn-around in the major demographic trend of population loss in Jamaica Plain. The 1960, 1970, and 1980 censuses each showed a declining population. But the 1990 census instead showed a population increase over the 1980 figure, an increase even greater proportionally than for the city as a whole: 5.3% versus 2.0%. Jamaica Plain's improved mass transit access with the new Orange Line, attractive residential areas, and open space help explain the population increase.

Jamaica Plain has a much larger proportion of children aged 0 to 14 than does Boston as a whole, but a lower proportion of persons aged 55 and over. In other age categories, this neighborhood resembles Boston overall. Jamaica Plain is on the whole more youth-oriented than Boston overall.

The racial and ethnic mix of people in Jamaica Plain is diverse. It has the largest Hispanic community in Boston, almost 7,800 persons. It has fewer whites than the share in Boston overall, but it does have the equivalent share of blacks to Boston overall.

Household composition in Jamaica Plain is also mixed and varied, yielding a profile with fewer traditional couples and

families, but more single parent households and more households of unrelated individuals than for Boston overall.

A higher poverty rate (31% versus 21%) and a lower median income (\$16,950 versus \$19,250) than for Boston characterizes Jamaica Plain's most salient income features.

The number of housing units increased by 3% from 1980 (17,052) to 1985 (17,610). Jamaica Plain has a varied housing stock -- luxury high-rise apartment towers, smaller multi-family apartment buildings, triple-deckers, one- and two-family homes of both historic and contemporary suburban character, and large public housing projects. Almost three-fourths of the dwelling units are renter-occupied.

Finally, the number of Jamaica Plain households owning no motor vehicles is 46%, a higher percentage than for Boston (39%).

OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

EQUITY AND INVESTMENT

Jamaica Plain has a total of 474.75 acres in its open space inventory of parks, playgrounds, squares, and malls both under Parks Department and other public jurisdictions (see Inventory). This is the third largest total open space acreage in a Boston neighborhood. This constitutes a 14.9% share of the city's total open space. Jamaica Plain's share of Boston's total population is 7.2%, a bit larger than most other neighborhoods. Seen another way, these figures translate into a ratio of 11.46 acres per thousand persons, well above the city ratio of 5.55 acres. A recent change in the inventory of publicly-accessible open space was the acquisition by the Boston Parks Department of a six-acre portion of the Bussey Brook urban wild. It is located between the MBTA Forest Hills Orange Line subway station and the Arnold Arboretum.

The City of Boston's Parks Department invested \$3.2 million in improving its extensive park and recreation facilities in Jamaica Plain. Playgrounds like Mozart, Murphy, and Jefferson and regional parks like Jamaica Pond and the Arnold Arboretum

have been rehabilitated as a result of the new capital program, "Rebuilding Boston," begun in 1987.

TABLE 1

BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN JAMAICA PLAIN, 1987-1991

PARK	INVESTMENT
Jefferson	152,000
South Street Mall	32,000
Jamaica Pond/Olmsted Park	1,846,000
Arboretum (wall)	86,000
Murphy	519,000
Mozart	432,000
Arboretum (paths)	100,000

ASSESSMENT

Like Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain has many acres of open space -- but it has an even more diverse palette of open space types. Along with squares, playfields, courts, and natural areas, Jamaica Plain also has such features as historic landscape parks (Olmsted Park and Jamaica Pond), a living woody plant "museum" (Arnold Arboretum), and linked parkland with off-road bicycle paths (in the Emerald Necklace and the MDC Southwest Corridor Park). The city's largest park, Franklin Park, borders the neighborhood's southeast section.

Active recreation facilities, located on land under the jurisdiction of the Boston Parks Department, the Metropolitan District Commission, and the Boston Schools Department, are fairly well distributed. The most difficult-to-serve area is the residential area south of Jamaica Pond and west of the Arnold Arboretum. However, most homes in this area have backyards, ameliorating the need for public play space. Despite increasing population, the recent capital improvement of existing facilities and the development of the new active recreation facilities in the Southwest Corridor Park. However, the need still exists in localized areas for additional playing fields, where the youth of Jamaica Plain, many of whom live in households without auto access, can get a chance to exercise, compete, and strengthen their identity in socially acceptable contexts.

In the Hyde Square district, the area north of Centre Street, east of Huntington Avenue, west of the Bromley-Heath BHA housing complex, and south of Heath Street contains open spaces with as-yet unfulfilled potential. The most developed open space here is Jefferson Playground, with a baseball field, two basketball courts, and a playlot. Nira Rock, adjacent to Jefferson, is an undeveloped city-owned parcel, a BRA-designated urban wild, with a magnificent rock outcropping and cliff of Roxbury puddingstone, a meadow, and land suitable for community open space uses such as community gardening.

Also adjacent to Jefferson is the Hennigan School complex, with a large underutilized, undeveloped, weedy and barren schoolyard. A linked system of open space among these three sites would provide this underserved district with a variety of experiences: with playlot equipment and paved and grassed areas for organized and unorganized play in immediate proximity to the school, playing fields and courts at Jefferson, a path to link the Hennigan to Nira Rock, enabling schoolchildren to safely use the urban wild as an environmental resource, and the development of physical measures to enable the proper management of Nira Rock as an attractive, safe urban wild with community open space uses. It would complement the upgrading of open space at the Bromley-Heath BHA housing complex, and the provision of affordable housing through the scatter-site housing project now underway, spearheaded by the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation with the help of the Public Facilities Department.

The portion of the Hellenic College campus both visible from and ecologically tied to Jamaica Pond, known as Hellenic Hill, is a valuable scenic and natural feature. The most important part of the Jamaica Pond viewshed, it is a key element in the bucolic experience of the Emerald Necklace. The location of a CPOD zone on Hellenic Hill (a "CPOD" is a proposed district under study by the BRA, which would protect natural features on private lands) and the reconfiguration of Parkman Drive and Prince Street, as recommended in the Emerald Necklace Master Plan, will create the most significant open space landscape improvements for Jamaica Pond.

This neighborhood has two model linear/linked park systems: the Emerald Necklace and the Southwest Corridor, which are generally in a north-south orientation. Strengthening the connection to the surrounding neighborhoods by making the connecting streets more parklike should be an important open

space goal. Cross streets linking these two corridors would repeat the function that the Arborway plays, connecting the Arboretum to the rest of the Emerald Necklace: east, to Franklin Park, and west, to Jamaica Pond; and to the Southwest Corridor, at the Forest Hills Station. Additional street tree plantings on these cross streets would strengthen the open space character of the neighborhood and give a visual connection between these park systems. At a minimum, this would take place where Orange Line stations are located: Green Street/Glen Street, Boylston Street/Moraine Street, and Centre Street/Perkins Street.

Making commercial thoroughfares such as Centre Street and Washington Street more parklike, with a consistent planting of street trees integrated with the visibility needs of local merchants, will help make these neighborhood service commercial districts more attractive and economically viable. The reconstruction of Washington Street now being designed by the Boston Transportation Department will include a tree planting component.

Another avenue for open space improvement is less immediately visible but vital to the neighborhood's and the city's environmental health. The waterway connecting Jamaica Pond to the Charles River, the Muddy River, has had poor water quality for years. Given increasing scientific and societal sensitivity to pollution the costs of clean-up have risen dramatically. It is hoped that federal involvement through the Army Corps of Engineers will be able to address water quality, sediment disposal, and flood control problems within the context of preserving and enhancing a well-used historic landscape park (Olmsted Park). The good water quality at Jamaica Pond has attracted people to its edge for fishing and even to use it for sailing and rowing. Such an increase in usage can be expected for Olmsted Park once the Muddy River's water quality is improved.

The primary theme in open space-rich Jamaica Plain is a strengthening of existing facilities, including state-owned ones. The MDC's Southwest Corridor Park is only a few years old, yet community concerns are mounting as to the ability of the state, with highly constrained budgets, to adequately maintain this park system. Another state facility, the MDC skating rink in Olmsted Park near Daisy Field, is in need of repair, maintenance and operating funding. Given the level of investment, the user base of persons dependent on local open space, and the ability of this open space system to knit this community together, maintenance of these MDC facilities should remain a priority.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

With the revival of Jamaica Pond and several other parks, Jamaica Plain has been well served by the Rebuilding Boston capital improvements program of the last five years. With the MDC Southwest Corridor Park and the Emerald Necklace, Jamaica Plain is well-endowed by regional open space. However, underserved sub-areas do exist and the need for more playing fields is clear. Urban wilds and scenic areas like Nira Avenue Rock and Hellenic Hill will be targets of planning effort, as will the improvement of school yards such as at the Hennigan School and English High School. Community involvement in its open spaces is a key theme in Jamaica Plain, as is the maintenance of existing facilities. In accord with guidelines in the master plans, Franklin Park will continue to be a major target for rehabilitation as will the Emerald Necklace north of the Arboretum; also see the chapter on the Emerald Necklace.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Create Linkages/Greenways at major cross streets between the Southwest Corridor and the Emerald Necklace, particularly at T stops.
- Green-up and make more bicycle-friendly major thoroughfares such as Centre Street, South Street, and Washington Street.
- English High School Campus is a major open space resource in a neighborhood in need of fields. Explore transferring management of this and other big public school campuses to the Parks and Recreation Department with appropriate financial compensation from the Schools Department.
- Provide assistance to the MDC as appropriate in the management and maintenance of the Southwest Corridor Park.
- Continue to rehabilitate city park facilities with capital funds, such as Brewer-Burroughs playlot.
- Work with PFD, BCC, and the community to secure protection for Nira Avenue Rock as a managed urban wild: secure funding for capital improvements, a conservation restriction to prevent inappropriate development, and "community-friendly" uses such as community gardening to insure the site's security and protection.
- Users of the Hennigan School facilities, as well as neighbors, are working to secure funding to improve the grounds, including the provision of a tot lot. The Parks and Recreation Department, at the request of these groups, will provide planning expertise to assist this fundraising effort. An area-wide plan to look at Nira Avenue Rock, the Jefferson Playground, and the Hennigan School grounds will be prepared by Department staff. This will support both the Hennigan and Nira projects. Parks will seek further improvements to Jefferson Playground in conjunction with this area-wide effort.

- o The Department will continue to pursue the recommendations of the Emerald Necklace Master Plan for Jamaica Pond, Olmsted Park, and the Riverway. Water-resource-oriented projects, such as Jamaica Pond pond edge restoration, Wards Pond restoration plan, and bridge restorations will be priority projects in the next five years. The Department will take a leadership role to represent the city's interests in the Muddy River's rehabilitation. The Department, strong advocates of federal funding for the Muddy River clean-up, will work cooperatively with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on their preliminary study.
- o The Department will work with the Arnold Arboretum on the preparation of their master plan to assure the city's and the community's interests are appropriately accomodated.
- o Hellenic Hill, as a premier urban wild in Jamaica Plain and the pristine backdrop for the Olmstedian landscape at Jamaica Pond, deserves all the effort the Department can muster to preserve it. The Department will work with the community to assure that this visual and ecological resource continues to buffer and enhance Jamaica Pond.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

- o Designate the Parks Department and Parks Commissioner as the city's official open space advocate, including protection and enhancement of open space in development decision-making.
- o Develop open space uses as part of a comprehensive development plan for the EDIC/MURAG site and the old Arborway MBTA Yard site.
- o Work with the BRA in IPOD rezoning process to protect open space. Review with the BRA and the community the proposed open space districts at Hellenic Hill, Bussey Brook, Lawrence Farm, Daughters of St. Paul, Nazareth, and Chapman.
- o Establish additional community gardens in the Egleston Square/Amory Street area. The Parks Department shall help implement this in collaboration with PFD/Grassroots.
- o Recognize that additional fields for active team sports (baseball, softball, soccer, football) are a high priority need, higher even than playlots for younger children. Explore the old Arborway MBTA Yard and EDIC/MURAG sites as opportunities.
- o Explore establishing additional playlots in certain underserved neighborhoods such as Egleston Square.
- o Explore feasibility of developing open space on at least a portion of the parcel across from the Curley School on Centre Street.

- o Continue making maintenance of existing facilities the highest priority. Do not defer maintenance of existing facilities to support acquisition, capital development, or maintenance of new facilities. Continue ballfield maintenance, which has been good.
- o Support MDC's reopening the skating rink in Olmsted Park. It should be used year-round for such activities as roller-skating, street hockey, volleyball, mini-golf, or tennis. According to the master plan for the Emerald Necklace, a new community ice rink location outside the Emerald Necklace shall be explored when the useful life of the rink has been reached,.
- o Provide more control of bicyclists around Jamaica Pond to prevent pedestrian-bicyclist accidents.
- o Enforce city dog ordinance in all parks.
- o As the Parks Department already provides some maintenance services to the English High School fields it shall devise a strategy for better use of this site and other school yards.
- o Continue to improve Franklin Park, with an emphasis on making it a regional park of citywide appeal in accord with master plan recommendations. Also see the chapter on the Emerald Necklace.
- o Allow community review of proposed allocation of operating budget for neighborhood parks.
- o Strengthen outreach to the Hyde Square Task Force and the Blessed Sacrament Church.
- o Strengthen park partners program: make it a higher Department priority. Organize partners for parks that do not already have partners.
- o Rossmore/Stedman, a Parks property, offers potential for a passive area and playlot.
- o Work to save the city-owned Williams Street stable site and the adjacent urban wild (privately owned, conservation restriction needed) for open space use.

HISTORY

Mattapan became part of Boston in 1870, as part of the annexation of the town of Dorchester. Mattapan is predominantly residential, a classic "streetcar suburb." First the Midlands branch railroad in 1855 and then the trolley in the 1890's opened up Mattapan to a wave of residential construction. The Franklin neighborhood, in the northern third of Mattapan, was more densely built-up with two- and three-family houses. The middle third, the Wellington Hill area, had single-family home construction mixed in with the two- and three-family home areas. In the southern third of Mattapan, east and west of Mattapan Square, single-family homes on larger lots were built in the middle of the twentieth century. Mattapan Square, at the confluence of Blue Hill Avenue, River Street, and Cummins Highway, with Red Line trolley service, became the commercial heart of Mattapan.

During the 1960's, a process of racial change occurred in Mattapan. Wellington Hill and southern Mattapan offered middle-income black families opportunities for home ownership. Unlike other parts of Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan Square continued to be a busy neighborhood commercial district.

Because of the density and age of housing in the older Franklin area, poorer black families were attracted there. A period of disinvestment, deterioration, and abandonment affected this neighborhood severely. By the 1980's, with market improvement and public housing investments, this Franklin area stabilized. Blue Hill Avenue in this area still exhibits the effects of this period, with many stores vacant.

DEMOGRAPHICS/HOUSING

The decade between 1970 and 1980 saw a population decline of almost 10,000 persons, over 20% of its 1970 population. However, in the first half of the eighties, the total population bounced back, adding almost 5,000 persons. It has a large number of traditional families and couples (44% versus 36% for Boston) and single-parent households (31% versus 16% for Boston). Given this predominant household type, it should be no surprise that Mattapan has 29% of its population in the 0-14 age cohort (versus 17% for Boston) and a median age of 25.7 years, the lowest of all Boston neighborhoods (versus 28.8 years for Boston). Mattapan is Boston's second largest non-white neighborhood.

Mattapan's income profile is comparable to Boston in terms of median income (\$18,600 versus \$19,250, respectively) and in percent of persons in poverty status (23% versus 21%, respectively). Labor force participation among persons 16 years and older was higher than for Boston (70% versus 66%, respectively), but unemployment was also higher than for Boston (11% versus 6%, respectively).

Almost 70% of Mattapan's housing stock is in 1-4 unit structures. Publicly-owned and -assisted housing represents 13% of its housing stock. Private multifamily structures with 5 or more units represents 15% of the housing stock. Given the lower scale of the vast majority of units, backyards are a likely component of the house lot. However, many houselots in Franklin area are small for two- and three-family homes. As a suburban neighborhood, fewer households have no vehicles available than for Boston (25% versus 39%, respectively).

THE OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

EQUITY AND INVESTMENT

Mattapan has a total of 80.11 acres in its open space inventory of parks, playgrounds, squares, and malls both under Parks Department and other public jurisdictions (see Inventory). Only four neighborhoods have lower total open space acreages: South End, Central Boston, North Dorchester, and Charlestown. These 80.11 acres constitute a 2.5% share of the city's total open space. Mattapan's share of Boston's total population is 6.2%. Seen another way, these figures translate into 2.24 acres per thousand persons, below the city average of 5.55 acres.

The City of Boston's Parks Department invested close to \$2.6 million in improving its four recreation facilities in Mattapan: Harambee (Franklin Field), Thetford, Hunt (Almont), and Walker (see Table 1 below).

TABLE 1

BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN MATTAPAN, 1987-1991

PARK	INVESTMENT
Hunt	359,000
Thetford	92,000
Walker	430,000
Harambee	1,236,000
Hunt (Woodlands)	110,000
Hunt (Courts)	70,000
Thetford (Courts)	35,000
Walker (Overpass)	218,000

ASSESSMENT

The approaches for assessment fall into two categories: existing facilities and new opportunities. The city has made significant investments in Mattapan's city parks. Suggestions for further improvements have been made. These will be evaluated for scheduling in the "maintenance of effort" cycle (discussed in detail in the Roxbury open space assessment below) -- capital planning, design, maintenance. While the momentum exists in the city's Parks Department maintenance of effort cycle, that momentum will need to be created for MDC facilities such as Ryan Playground where outdated equipment does not meet community needs.

Other existing facilities which deserve attention include schoolyards, thoroughfares, and waterfront access. The barren, paved schoolyards have the potential to meet localized areas underserved by existing parkspace.

Thoroughfares have also tended to look barren, but have the potential to provide a healthier image for Mattapan by careful use of landscape elements. One initiative which could have a large impact will be the proposed BDOT reconstruction of Blue Hill Avenue from Babson Street to Morton Street. Judicious landscape treatment in such a prominent location would provide an example for other thoroughfares in the neighborhood, such as American Legion Highway or the MDC's Morton Street.

Waterfront access is an unrealized opportunity in Mattapan. Only the MDC's Ryan Playground offers access to the water -- the Neponset. However, this access is visual only --

looking through a chain link fence at the river below. The MDC Planning Office is systematically looking at means to improve access to the Neponset from the mouth of the river westward to Mattapan Square. The Parks Department, through its neighborhood harborfront initiative, will also look at this area as well, seeking to assist the MDC improve access to the water from the adjacent neighborhood.

One of the strongest needs in Mattapan is the provision of more soccer and cricket fields. Given the large immigrant population in Mattapan (as well as soccer's growing nationwide popularity), this appears to be a validated need. Other needs identified include neighborhood-oriented playlots in underserved areas, and ballfields. Mattapan has several open land resources available with potential to meet this need. Vacant lots exist throughout many areas of Mattapan. To assure that some portion of city-owned vacant tracts provide usable open space, PFD will need to consider the Parks Department as one of its several clients to be served throughout the planning and disposition of vacant land.

Another city-owned resource is the surplus land at the Mattapan Chronic Disease Hospital on River Street. A portion is a BRA-designated urban wild and is targeted for preservation in the city's master plan for the site. The remaining surplus land has been targeted for some type of urbanized development -- family housing or elderly housing. Open space in some portion of this housing project was proposed in the city master plan -- primarily active in the case of family housing, or primarily passive in the case of elderly housing. In either case, the urban wild and the housing-oriented open space will help connect the surrounding neighborhood to the Neponset waterfront.

Mattapan's largest land resource with open space potential is the Boston State Hospital site. Parts are BRA-designated urban wilds; parts are already used as community gardens. Given that some of Mattapan's underserved areas border this site, active recreation should be an open space use considered for this site. An income-producing open space use which could cross-subsidize other open space development, and support the municipal golf courses nearby (George Wright and Franklin Park), would be a municipal golf driving range licensed to a private operator. Another potential open space for Boston State Hospital's grounds, identified in the BRA Roxbury IPOD planning process, would be affordable cemetery space. The city will seek to incorporate consideration of these potential open space uses in the planning for this site.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Much has been accomplished in the last five years for the city's recreational facilities in Mattapan. Further improvements of city facilities are desired, as well as basic rehabilitation of the MDC facilities. Underserved areas should be addressed. Vacant lots may provide part of the answer to providing recreation facilities for those underserved areas. Waterfront access and the protection and management of natural areas emerged as two major themes.

OPPORTUNITIES

- o Portions of Mattapan are underserved by open space. One partial remedy may result from the transformation of a portion of the excess land at the Mattapan Chronic Disease Hospital for housing development. The Parks Department will work with PFD to assure development of a public multi-purpose (active and passive) open space for new and old residents of this underserved area.
- o When the state planning process begins for the re-use of the Boston State Hospital (BSH) site, the Department will promote the city's interest in preserving portions of the site for open space. The urban wilds and community gardens are a special concern on this site. For neighborhoods surrounding BSH which are far from Harambee, Hunt, and Walker, a portion of this site should be devoted to active recreation uses. Given the proximity to the Franklin Park Golf Course, a golf driving range would be a feasible income-producing use for a portion of the recreational development this site could support. Another open space and income-producing use would be affordable cemetery space (minimum twenty acres) serving Boston residents.
- o The Mattapan neighborhood is underserved by urban wild acreage. A prime urban wild for this neighborhood, as identified by the 1990 BNAF report, is Gladeside I, a ten-acre tract. It is part of the surplus land at the Mattapan Chronic Disease Hospital. This would be a suitable site for natural area management by the Parks Department. A conservation restriction held by the BCC would prevent inappropriate development for this natural area, while Parks jurisdiction would add the protection that designated parkland possesses: the need for state legislative approval before a non-park use could be implemented. With programmed uses through the Urban Park Rangers and the School Department, Gladeside I would be an important environmental education resource for the youth of this area.
- o Major thoroughfares such as American Legion Highway, Blue Hill Avenue, Cummins Highway, River Street, and Morton Street need street tree planting & landscaping and more usable by bicycles. One implementation action in this regard will be the BTB/BPWD Urban Systems reconstruction project on Blue Hill Avenue from Morton Street to Babson Street. BTB has requested Parks staff guidance to assist the street tree and landscaping portion of the project.

- o Explore with the MDC enhancing formalized waterfront access along the Neponset River Reservation. Work with the MDC Planning unit on the master plan for the Neponset shore from Mattapan Square eastward.
- o There is a clear need for rehabilitation at the MDC Ryan Playground. Work with the MDC to secure the state's re-investment in this facility.
- o The city through PFD will facilitate interim uses of city-owned vacant land in neighborhoods selected for comprehensive preservation activities. PFD will consult with Parks, from the initial planning phase onward, on interim and final uses of vacant land to assure community open space needs are fully considered in disposition and future use decisions.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

- o Top near-term priorities include:
 - Continued maintenance of Hunt Playground
 - Install water fountains at Hunt
 - Assist community gardens at Hunt
 - Better basketball lighting needed at Hunt
 - Rebuild Walker footbridge (The current bridge is unsafe, closed, and soon to be demolished. It will be rebuilt as capital budget priorities permit.)
- o Some vacant lots should be converted to open space. How can the community do some of this? Look at alternative funding sources such as Grassroots/PFD
- o Private vacant lots need to be controlled, weeds cut. This will prevent rats, dumping, use by drug traffickers and users.
- o Vacant lots need to be maintained: citizens need to be made aware of city assistance (Boston Youth Clean-Up Corps, Adopt-A-Lot, etc.)
- o Encourage residential abutters of unbuildable city-owned vacant lots to acquire these lots through the PFD Abutter Lots program.
- o Need more close-to-home totlots in several underserved sub-areas of Mattapan. One potential site in an underserved sub-area is the "North Expansion Area," a portion of the vacant land at the Chronic Disease Hospital campus. This area has been identified for potential residential development with a multipurpose recreation area and playlot in the new (1991) city master plan for this campus.

- o Ryan (MDC) needs improvement. It is used by daycare and Head Start nearby. Better security is needed there to prevent teens from using it as a drug hangout.
- o There is an inappropriate distribution of fields for soccer, baseball, little league. Cricket and soccer are popular, but more fields are needed.
- o Maintain thoroughfares such as Blue Hill Avenue, American Legion Highway.
- o Fieldhouse needed at Hunt, with lockers and community room. A nonprofit should run it. This would prevent vandalism of the fieldhouse and in the park.
- o Support the Roxbury Boys and Girls Club management of the MDC skating rink and pool at Harambee. Coordination with such groups as the Lena Park Association and the Dorchester YMCA will be essential.
- o Additional need for small, scattered basketball court sites in the Franklin Field South area.
- o Access to the Neponset waterfront needs to be increased. Mosquito control is also a concern.

MISSION HILL

THE MISSION HILL NEIGHBORHOOD

HISTORY

Mission Hill developed as part of Roxbury. During the 1700s the Parker Hill area was divided into large estates; its name derives from the property of John Parker. Heath Street is named for another original property owner. By the early 1800s lower Parker Hill was ringed by streets; houses and farms had proliferated and many still belonged to the area's early families. Development was dense in the Parker/Tremont Street area. Stony Brook industry included a brewery and a dye works.

In the 19th century the Mission Hill neighborhood gained much of the character and form it retains today, during a period which brought rapid growth to Roxbury. Part of lower Parker Hill was laid out with subdivisions before the Civil War; however, the neighborhood was really defined after the war. Development is linked to annexation of Roxbury by Boston in 1867 and establishment of the Mission Church on Tremont Street, whose building was completed in 1878.

PROFILE

Today Mission Hill's residential streetscapes are set among large institutions. Except for the two Roman Catholic parishes established in the latter 1800s, the prominent institutions date from the early 1900s. The Robert B. Brigham Hospital was built 1912-14 and the New England Baptist Hospital dates from 1923-24. Wentworth Institute was built 1911-16 on a site formerly occupied by cordage works. Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of New England was built 1921-23. Open space which has contributed to the fabric of the neighborhood, as unbuilt parcels on hillsides, institutional campuses, and smaller vacant lots, is beginning to be developed, for either institutional expansion or housing.

DEMOGRAPHICS / HOUSING

Although Mission Church originally served a German parish, soon Irish immigrants moved in to take advantage of affordable housing and nearby jobs. The growing brewery industry continued to be owned by German immigrant families. More streets were developed on lower Parker Hill, lined by brick single-family rowhouses. Streets on the upper part of the hill were laid out in the 1880s, with triple deckers added in the

1890s. Also in the 1890s, apartment blocks were built along Tremont Street, Huntington Avenue was lined with brick bowfront apartments. In the early 20th century, two-family houses filled in vacant areas. Neighborhood fabric generally retains a cohesive Victorian and Edwardian feeling, although public housing and high-rise apartments were added during and after WWII. Most of the back of Mission Hill has 1980s housing which echoes the scale of the South Huntington Avenue rowhouses.

Mission Hill today is culturally very diversified. The longstanding Irish population has been joined by a sizable Hispanic community. Many other groups contribute to the neighborhood including Italians, African Americans and Asians. Mission Hill has families with children, young professionals, an elderly population, students, and hospital workers.

OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

The green space woven into the fabric of the neighborhood, largely in the form of privately and institutionally owned land, is a distinctive and important attribute of Mission Hill. Urban Wilds constitute 15.6 acres of which only 3.4 acres are protected to assure their preservation and continued public access. City playgrounds total 14.4 acres. There are concerns regarding non-publicly owned land which is unprotected from development. In the 1980s housing took 8 acres on the back of Mission Hill. Due to housing needs, other residential developments are proposed. There is additional concern regarding future institutional expansion.

There are two sizable neighborhood parks, McLaughlin, Sheehy (a.k.a. Mission Hill or Smith), and a small playground, Gibbons (a.k.a. Delle Av.). On its western edge the neighborhood is bordered by the Emerald Necklace, specifically Leverett Pond in Olmsted Park and the passive, narrow southern end of the Riverway. The Necklace parks are not easy to reach from Mission Hill due to the intervening, heavily travelled parkway.

EQUITY AND INVESTMENT

Mission Hill's residents comprise % of Boston's total population and have in their community % of the city's open space, counting neighborhood parks and Emerald Necklace parks. Improved access to the Emerald Necklace is important. Access to and protection of the Urban Wilds and institutional open space can add significantly to community open space resources.

Under the City of Boston Capital Plan of 1986-91, two out of three neighborhood parks in Mission Hill received improvements, for a total of \$ 382,000 (Table 1). The Browne Fund, managed by the City of Boston Trust Office, has granted \$25,000 for the redesign of Sheehy (besides the newly reburished tot lot) and \$ 4,500 to design a reading circle for the refurbished McLaughlin tot lot. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management contributed \$ 305,594 for the bikepath plus the Daisy Field parking lot (at Netherlands Road). New England Baptist Hospital complimented the refurbishing of McLaughlin by returning a paved parking lot to parkland and by assisting with the ongoing maintenance of that park.

TABLE 1

BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN MISSION HILL 1987-1991

PARK	INVESTMENT
McLaughlin	\$ 342,000
Sheehy (Mission Hill, Smith)	40,000
TOTAL	\$ 382,000

ASSESSMENT

The three neighborhood parks provide a variety of active and passive recreation facilities. Of the three, McLaughlin is in very good condition except for the passive area and Sheehy will be rehabilitated by the Browne Fund with the exception of its ball field. City capital funds will be explored for the passive part of McLaughlin, the ball fields at Sheehy, and for much needed improvements at Gibbons. Rehabilitation efforts will continue for the Emerald Necklace.

Connections between open space properties exit due largely to the Urban Wilds and to other non-public lands. The greatest challenge is protection of non-publicly owned open space.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

There are opportunities for combined efforts between the city and community groups and with institutions to provide additional protection of open space. Additional partnerships between public agencies, community groups, institutions and others shall assure increased programming and maintenance of existing parkland.

OPPORTUNITIES

Rehabilitate and maintain the wooded slope of McLaughlin Playground, addressing access for the disabled as well as protection of the design of this historic landscape.

Use the New England Baptist Hospital maintenance agreement for McLaughlin Playground as a model to foster other cooperative agreements with institutions.

Create partnerships to encourage continued public access and recreational use of institutional open space including the Urban Wilds. Provide technical assistance for the design of development which protects or enhances open space resources.

As stated in the Emerald Necklace Master Plan, continue to implement projects to restore Olmsted Park and the Riverway, focusing on improved community access, awareness, and woodland management. Continue to support clean-up of the Muddy River.

Coordinate development of a plan for protection and enhancement of open space in Mission Hill (see below).

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

To rehabilitate the wooded part of McLaughlin Playground: Repair the three sets of steps from Fisher Avenue. Clear the paths at the top. Establish a year-round maintenance plan, although the Boston Youth Clean-up Corps made a good start. Explore a City Year project here. Friends of McLaughlin, interested in the history and preservation of the wooded area, may pursue a Browne Fund grant.

Active parts of McLaughlin: Pathways need attention. The gate for the Little League field and the bubblers need to be checked. Explore need for restroom or field house facilities.

Foster park programming at McLaughlin. The Friends of McLaughlin may expand their Park Partnership to include events and programming activities.

Explore interest expressed in creating a community garden and tot on a 747 designated parcel in the 780 block of Parker Street. (Note: tot lot now being developed at Terrace Street and Allegheny Street). Alternatively, develop an interim solution via the Adopt-a-Lot Program under direction of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services and the Clearing House of the Real Property Department.

Complete in a timely fashion the Browne Fund project for the rehabilitation of Sheehy Playground. Provide additional community review before the design is finalized. Implement softball field rehabilitation.

Integrate the community gardens adjacent to the Tobin Community School into school programs.

Rehabilitate Gibbons (Delle Avenue) Playground.

Develop a neighborhood open space plan to focus on the vacant parcels which help define Mission Hill's character. City and community will conduct an open space inventory, develop a plan and pursue options for protection. Public Facilities maps may provide a good starting point for the inventory.

Support Boston Natural Area Fund efforts to protect the Urban Wilds. Seek BNAF participation in open space planning efforts.

Remind other city agencies, such as Zoning Board of Appeals and the Building Department, of the process regarding Parks Commission review for proposed development within 100 feet of existing parkland.

NORTH DORCHESTER

North Dorchester is a large, diverse neighborhood in the city of Boston. It is home to a wide variety of people, including many who have moved there in recent years. The area is characterized by its mix of housing, from small, multi-unit buildings to larger, more modern developments. The neighborhood is also known for its vibrant community and its proximity to the city center. In the past, North Dorchester has been the subject of various studies and reports, highlighting its unique challenges and opportunities. The area's history is deeply rooted in the city's development, and its future is closely tied to the city's overall growth and progress. The North Dorchester neighborhood is a complex and dynamic area, and its study is essential for understanding the city's past, present, and future.

1. THE NORTH DORCHESTER NEIGHBORHOOD

HISTORY

Consisting of the Upham's Corner, Savin Hill and Columbia Point neighborhoods, the North Dorchester planning district contains many of the oldest remnants of the original Town of Dorchester. First settled by Puritans who landed at Columbia Point in 1633, the area was defended from a fort atop on Savin Hill. Settlers dedicated a burying ground in Upham's Corner in 1633. It is also home to some of the city's oldest wood frame houses--the Blake House constructed in 1648 and the Shirley-Eustis House from the mid 18th century.

With its annexation to Boston in 1870 and with the opening of railroad access, residential and commercial development began to transform what had been essentially an agricultural area. Upper class Yankees and Irish built large one and two family Victorian homes on Savin Hill and Jones Hill. Uphams Corner, was now located at the junction of five streetcar lines, and became Dorchester's marketplace.

By 1960 the Southeast Expressway had opened, the Old Colony Railroad closed and the process of disinvestment in the neighborhood started. Low income blacks moved in to replace the Jewish community, aided by the innovative Boston Banks Urban Renewal Group (BBURG) program. In the last two decades Cape Verdean and Spanish, as well as young professional families have begun to move into parts of the neighborhood.

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

The North East Expressway cuts through the North Dorchester planning district, creating a physical barrier between the Uphams Corner area to the west and the two waterfront neighborhoods of Savin Hill and Columbia Point to its east.

Columbia Point, separating the South Boston shoreline from Dorchester and originally a 'calf pasture' used by the agricultural community, has now developed institutional uses with the University of Massachusetts and the John F. Kennedy Library. The newly renovated Columbia Point housing development has attracted a stable residential population despite the area's relative isolation, however ongoing construction of site facilities and a waterfront park by the MDC will soon change that situation.

2. OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

EQUITY AND INVESTMENT

The planning district of North Dorchester has a total of just over 36 acres of public parks, playgrounds, squares and and malls including MDC owned beaches. This is 1.2% of Boston's total. At the same time, the neighborhood's share of the city's population in 1990 was over 4%, indicating that the N.Dorchester has less open space per capita (1.45 acres per thousand persons) compared to other neighborhoods. This lack of quantity is somewhat made up by the fact that there is a diversity in the types of open space as it includes passive parks, playgrounds and beaches.

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department, from 1987 through its five year capital improvements plan has renovated every city owned open space facility in the neighborhood. Close to 1.25 million dollars were expended by the department in the area's facilities including McConnell Park, Ryan Playground, Savin Hill Park and the North Dorchester Burying Ground.

ASSESSMENT

Much like the North End is physically isolated from downtown Boston due to the elevated Central Artery, Columbia Point and Savin Hill, while blessed with a diverse open space inventory are inaccessible from the rest of the Dorchester neighborhood.

In addition, Columbia Point's many institutions, including the John F. Kennedy Library and the University of Massachusetts, while splendid facilities in themselves have poorly integrated open space systems. Existing avenues and roads need additional tree planting. The growing residential population at Harbor Point does not have easy access to ballfields or family oriented passive parks. They could be given additional use of institutional facilities which are not used all the time. Extensive fishing is currently done off the harbor walk near the Library, a fishing pier is required in the area.

The Savin Hill area while blessed with a diversity of open spaces could further enhance local facilities by developing the existing beaches in the area as well as by implementing a stabalization program for other natural resource areas in the neighborhood, like the Urban Wild at Patten's Cove.

Sandwiched between the ramps of Morrissey Boulevard and the South East Expressway, Savin Hill is a small but stable residential community physically disconnected from the rest of the city. However, the grand Victorians and triple deckers of the neighborhood also have spectacular views of the Harbor, and access to Dorchester Yacht Club Bay.

To the west of the Expressway is the residential area around Uphams Corner, essentially triple deckers, many of them boarded up. Recreational and cultural opportunities are becoming available with improvements to existing open space facilities and with the renovation of the Strand Theatre. The houses along Dorchester Avenue, a major local thoroughfare, are interspersed with light industrial and commercial uses. The Midlands tracks corridor defines the western edge of the neighborhood.

DEMOGRAPHICS / HOUSING

With Allston Brighton, Charlestown and Hyde Park, North Dorchester is amongst those neighborhoods which have experienced high population growth over the last decade. 1990 Census figures indicate a 6.5% increase when compared with the previous census--to over 25,000 persons now. A 1985 survey shows that the median age is a little lower than that of the city, a larger than average number of children, ages 0 to 14, makes North Dorchester one of Boston's primary child-raising neighborhoods. With the Hispanic population increasing dramatically, North Dorchester is becoming racially balanced.

The majority of North Dorchester's housing consists of one-to-four unit structures, mostly the ubiquitous triple deckers. Over three fourths of these are owner occupied, a much higher proportion than other neighborhoods. Almost all the public housing of this planning district is concentrated in the Columbia Point area. That development is currently undergoing a unique transformation, as renovations have been targeted to create a mixed income community.

3. NORTH DORCHESTER : THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

The Codman Square, Four Corners, Uphams Corner and Everett Square areas of Dorchester, while somewhat underserved by large playground facilities have a diverse supply of street scale open spaces. If the latter are well integrated with the emerging neighborhood level commercialization of these squares, healthy residential revitalization can be achieved. The quality of life in Dorchester can be further improved by opening access to the shoreline by designating paths and bus transportation routes to facilities like Columbus Park and Dorchester Yacht Club Bay.

OPPORTUNITIES

Develop pedestrian scale open spaces to complement the neighborhood level commercialization of Four Corners, Uphams Corner and Everett Square. Seek similar open space development in coordination with current MBTA improvements to Andrew Square. Support the efforts of the Public Facilities Department to establish their Enterprise program at Codman Square and Uphams Corner.

Support the greening-up of Columbia Road and examine the possibility of designated bicycle paths to improve access to Columbus Park from the residential areas as well as from Franklin Park.

Plan for the development of Dorchester Yacht Club Bay for recreation opportunities by programming the use of McConnell Park and an improved Malibu Beach. Screen the traffic impacts of Morrissey Boulevard with landscaping.

Support the MDC's and the City's efforts to construct and program a harbor walk between the J.F. Kennedy Library and Carson Beach. Develop plans to create a family park on Columbia Point adjacent to Calf Pasture.

Examine the Midlands tracks area for open space opportunities, especially for the preservation of existing urban wilds.

Provide institutional support to the large number of community gardens in this area by expanding the Parks Partner program to the gardeners.

The Uphams Corner residential area is currently underserved in terms of open space facilities. Increasing population, specially of children, will put even more pressure on existing parks and playgrounds in the coming decade. Part of the problem is a lack of direct access to the facilities at Columbia Point and at Savin Hill, i.e. to the shoreline. Dorchester Avenue, which is the primary avenue of the area, is in need of extensive tree planting and general 'greening' measures. Codman Square, Four Corners, and Everett Square, while technically not in this planning district are used by its residents, are fast commercializing and in need of complementing open space development.

TABLE 1

**BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN NORTH DORCHESTER 1987-1992**

PARK	INVESTMENT
McConnell Park	\$572,000
Savin Hill Park	\$15,000
Downer Avenue Playground	\$112,000
Ryan Play Area	\$272,000
North Dorchester Burying Ground	\$125,000
TOTAL	\$1,096,000

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Provide minor capital improvements and above standard maintenance at Savin Hill Park.

Support the Parks Departments rehabilitation of the Quincy Street Playground by development of additional community partners to the park.

In general, through a tax title search and vacant land recovery program explore the possibility of establishing new parkland in this area.

Coordinate with existing Parks Partner groups the organization of the Boston Youth Clean-Up Corps program to optimize resources in the neighborhood.

Develop Columbia Road as a tree lined thoroughfare to link the inland neighborhood areas to Columbus Park.

Develop and implement a street and boulevard tree plan for the Columbia Point area.

Initiate a open space planning process for Newmarket Square, through discussions between concerned business groups and the city

ROSLINDALE

HISTORY

Roslindale became part of Boston as part of the 1873 annexation of West Roxbury. While its boundaries are a subject of dispute, its heart is distinct -- Roslindale Square. Again, this distinctiveness derives from its history as a classic streetcar suburb. Until the late 1800's extension of mass transit to Roslindale Square, this area was a rural community. The railroad and streetcar made it a "garden suburb." Washington Street, running through Roslindale Square, is the commercial spine of Roslindale. The Square is the subject of historic preservation "Main Street" awards, proving the value of historic and aesthetic values in economic revitalization.

DEMOGRAPHICS/HOUSING

After population increased in the 1950's and the 1960's, the 1970's saw a precipitous drop in Roslindale's population. The population has held steady during the early part of the 1980's.

Its age distribution closely approximates Boston's. Racially, Roslindale is overwhelmingly white. Its predominant household type is traditional families and couples. Fewer persons were in poverty status as compared to Boston (6% versus 21%, respectively), and median household income was higher in Roslindale than in Boston (\$22,450 versus \$19,250, respectively). Labor force participation among persons aged 16 years and older was larger (74%) than for Boston (66%), but Roslindale had a comparable (7%) unemployment rate to Boston's (6%).

Over three-quarters of Roslindale's housing stock is in 1-4 unit structures. These often have backyards, sometimes sizeable. Thirteen percent (13%) of its housing stock is publicly-owned or -assisted. As expected in this suburban neighborhood, only 18% of households has no vehicles available, as compared to 39% of all of Boston's households.

THE OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

EQUITY AND INVESTMENT

Roslindale has a total of 195.95 acres in its open space inventory of parks, playgrounds, squares, and malls both under Parks Department and other public jurisdictions (see

Inventory). This constitutes a 6.2% share of the city's total open space. Roslindale's share of Boston's total population is 5.3%. Seen another way, these figures translate into 6.46 acres per thousand persons, above the city average of 5.55 acres.

The City of Boston's Parks Department invested close to \$3.8 million in improving its four major recreation facilities in Roslindale: Adams Park in Roslindale Square, Healy Playground, Parkman Playground, and Fallon Field (see Table 1 below).

TABLE 1

BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN MATAPAN, 1987-1991

PARK	INVESTMENT
Parkman	335,000
Adams	200,000
Mt. Hope	60,000
Fallon (I)	460,000
Healy (PFD) (including Healy Pool)	1,954,000
Fallon (II)	173,000
Mt. Hope (PFD) (Maintenance Garage)	600,000

*Mt. Hope is one of the city's active cemeteries, run by the Parks Department.

ASSESSMENT

While its acknowledged boundaries are not distinct, it is bounded by larger open spaces. To the east are several large cemeteries like Forest Hills and Mount Hope, and the large institutional campus of Boston State Hospital. To the north, the Arnold Arboretum and the Bussey Brook urban wild; to the west, the MDC West Roxbury Parkway, and to the south, George Wright Golf Course. Except for Arnold Arboretum and George Wright Golf Course, both essentially passive landscaped parks, these spaces serve more a (vital) greenbelt function -- containing development -- rather than serving the recreational needs of Roslindale's residents.

The interior of the neighborhood contains much smaller tracts that help serve the area's active recreation needs: Fallon, Healy, and Parkman. But two measures lead to the conclusion that additional active recreational opportunities are needed in this neighborhood. One is that several residential areas, such as the area south and west of Roslindale Square, and the area east of Hyde Park Avenue and south of Walk Hill Street, are underserved by playlots and other active recreation facilities. The other is the limited amount of general purpose recreational lands per capita. The 195.95 total acres in Roslindale is the result of including the 185.50 acres of George Wright Golf Course in the total acreage figure. Given its specialized nature and user group, the golf course inflates the 6.46 acres per 1000 persons; without the 158.50 acres, the "per capita" figure falls to only 1.24 acres.

The mitigating factor, as in such suburban neighborhoods as Hyde Park and West Roxbury, is the ample backyard space of most of the housing stock. Yet pressure does exist to provide more playlots and ballfields, especially soccer fields for this neighborhood with a large immigrant population. When opportunities exist in this mature, stable, developed neighborhood to create new active open space, it should be seized. One opportunity is the former MDC Pagel Playground, now in the state's surplus land inventory. It is located in one of Roslindale's underserved areas. Its Hyde Park Avenue frontage both helps and hinders accessibility. As a major arterial, it is fed by the neighborhood's local streets. But this major arterial which services the residential and industrial areas of Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, and Hyde Park has a heavy traffic load. The need to safely cross Hyde Park Avenue will be an issue to solve in order to take advantage of this opportunity.

Another opportunity is the Walter Street tract, a Harvard University holding adjacent to the Peters Hill section of the Arnold Arboretum. With the Arboretum beginning to engage in a master plan process, this Walter Street tract should be considered for permanent protection as designated open space, and for development as a passive landscaped park that takes pressure off the Arboretum and better serves Roslindale and West Roxbury residents. To keep this tract open rather than urbanized will also assure better water quality and flood control for the Bussey Brook.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

- o Need for more playgrounds and totlots in the Mt. Hope area: Pagel should be rehabbed.
- o Now during the development bust, there is a need to plan for greenspace in the community. Growth should include greenspace as well as developed uses.
- o Concern for development controls: notification of community must be early in the process so that open space can be protected.
- o Need for an advocacy group for Roslindale greenspace.
- o The Bussey Brook urban wild along South Street needs to be protected. Canterbury urban wild needs to be cleaned up. Improvements to provide limited access (people, not cars) should be developed for both this and the Eldon Street urban wilds.
- o A vacant tract surrounded by the MBTA tracks, Fowle, Rome, and Blakemore Streets has natural characteristics. It should be protected from dumping and made more accessible.
- o Improve the Fallon Field playlot, particularly the grading of the paved areas.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

The rehabilitation of Roslindale's city recreation facilities (Fallon, Healy, Parkman) and open spaces (e.g., Adams Square) has accompanied the overall strengthening of this neighborhood in the past few years. Yet several sub-areas remain underserved by open space. Improved use of existing resources will be a key strategy, such as the rehabilitation of surplussed MDC facilities, such as in the Mount Hope area (Pagel) and the development of the underutilized Harvard University holding (a/k/a Joyce Kilmer Park). Major city thoroughfares should be greened in keeping with the green character of Roslindale's residential neighborhoods. As in other areas, urban wilds need to be made more accessible and protected from development threats.

OPPORTUNITIES

- o Need for more land for playlots, ballfields, courts, and other facilities in many underserved sections of this neighborhood. The Department will explore every opportunity to increase the amount of these facilities in this neighborhood.
- o The Mount Hope neighborhood has a strong need for active open space, including a totlot. A state-owned former playground, Pagel, on Hyde Park Avenue, offers an opportunity to serve this community. The Department will explore ways of funding the capital rehabilitation of this site.
- o Forest Hills Cemetery is a rich open space and cultural resource. With cooperation of owners, explore possibility of Ranger tours through grounds, and willingness to include as a destination on a brochure-guided bike tour of city cemeteries. With the many lightly trafficked roads and pastoral environments, many of the city cemeteries can become suitable attractions for local bicycle enthusiasts.
- o Green-up and make more bicycle-friendly such major neighborhood thoroughfares as South Street, Walter Street, Centre Street, Cummins Highway, Hyde Park Avenue, and American Legion Highway. Support the Boston Transportation Department effort to include street trees in the reconstruction of Washington Street, a key link between the Emerald Necklace and the MDC Stony Brook Reservation.
- o The Harvard-owned parcel between Walter, Weld, and Centre Streets, abutting the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center, should be considered in the proposed Arnold Arboretum Master Plan. An Olmsted-inspired design for a passive open space that makes the Arboretum closer and more accessible to the Roslindale neighborhood would be welcome transformation of this underutilized parcel.

including Egleston Square and Highland Park

HISTORY

Founded in 1639, the town of Roxbury was settled by Puritan English farmers. Eventually, by the 18th century, rural homes and country estates of Boston's wealthy families also occupied this area. The Roxbury farms provided fresh produce to Boston, which became a dense settlement specializing in maritime commerce. Orange Street connected Roxbury to the Shawmut Peninsula -- Boston -- via the narrow neck between Back Bay and South Cove. In 1789, George Washington visited Boston traveling overland from Roxbury on Orange Street. In honor of this national hero, Orange Street was renamed Washington Street.

By the 19th century, Roxbury's rural character began to change. With mass transit lines running into Roxbury, housing was built for people commuting to Boston. By the mid-19th century, Lower Roxbury, Roxbury's northern section, was a full-fledged industrial mill town providing jobs for Roxbury residents. By the late 1800's, with streetcar service now penetrating Roxbury, residential development was rapid and extensive. In exchange for new gas, water, and sewer lines, Roxbury was annexed to Boston in 1868.

Soon thereafter, the Boston parks movement began to influence Roxbury. Boston's "country" park, comparable to Central Park in New York, Prospect Park in Brooklyn, and Mount Royal Park in Montreal, was to be Franklin Park in newly annexed Roxbury. Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, it was one of the destinations of choice on a Sunday afternoon for all Boston residents in the late 19th century. Franklin Park became the location of Boston's first playground and the nation's first municipal golf course.

The 20th century erosion of Boston's industrial base impacted Roxbury adversely, as did the continual flight of middle class residents to less dense suburbs surrounding Boston. In the decades of the 1940's and 1950's, the racial composition of Roxbury changed from 80% white to 80% non-white. Housing deterioration in many sections accompanied this change as the newer residents were poorer migrants from the South.

The 1960's saw a major urban renewal effort in the residential Washington Park area of Roxbury. Along with this public investment, black middle class professionals had begun to move in as well, attracted by the historic housing stock, much of it still in good condition.

With the abandonment in the 40's and 50's of much housing and property, vacant land became abundant. This led to a

strong grassroots community gardening movement, still an important feature of community revitalization efforts. Another community effort, a campaign to stop the extension of I-95 into downtown Boston, ultimately generated the Southwest Corridor Park in 1988, Boston's first major new open space in almost a century. Other lands acquired for the highway right-of-way, such as Parcel 18, are now beginning to be developed. It is hoped that this will contribute to a economic revival in Roxbury.

DEMOGRAPHICS/HOUSING

The major population trend in Roxbury was population loss from 1950 (121,828) to 1980 (57,751). However, a turn-around can be discerned, as indicated by the 1985 figure of 58,475 (BRA and PFD Household Survey, 1985).

Roxbury has a larger proportion of its population in the 0-14 age cohort than does Boston (23% versus 17%, respectively). Three-quarters of Roxbury's people are black and 13% are Hispanic. A larger proportion of Roxbury's households are traditional families and couples than in Boston (39% versus 36%, respectively) but Roxbury's share of single-parent households is much larger than for Boston as a whole (29% versus 16%, respectively). Roxbury residents had a lower median income than the Boston figure (\$13,000 versus \$19,250, respectively) and a higher percentage in poverty status (31% versus 21%, respectively). Roxbury residents aged 16 years and over have a lower labor force participation rate than for all such Boston residents (61% versus 66%, respectively). The percent of Roxbury's residents in the labor force who are unemployed is significantly higher than for Boston (14% versus 6%, respectively). Roxbury has a higher percentage of households with no vehicles than does Boston (52% versus 39%, respectively).

Housing is a critical concern in Roxbury. Roxbury has a higher percentage of publicly-owned or -assisted units than any other neighborhood. Roxbury has a lower percentage of owner-occupied units among the remaining housing stock -- mainly 1-4 unit structures -- than does Boston (51% versus 73%, respectively).

OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

EQUITY AND INVESTMENT

Roxbury has a total of 562.46 acres in its open space inventory of parks, playgrounds, squares, and malls both under

Parks Department and other public jurisdictions (see Inventory). This is the second largest total open space acreage in a Boston neighborhood. This constitutes a 17.7% share of the city's total open space. Roxbury's share of Boston's total population is 10.3%, the third most populous Boston neighborhood, after Allston-Brighton and South Dorchester. Seen another way, these figures translate into 9.5 acres per thousand persons, above the city average of 5.6 acres. A recent open space acquisition for Roxbury is the addition of a tenth of an acre of vacant land to the existing quarter-acre Mt. Pleasant Play Area. This has enabled a larger park to be re-developed on this site through the Rebuilding Boston capital program.

The City of Boston's Parks Department invested over \$7 million in improving its thirty-one recreation facilities in Roxbury through the Rebuilding Boston campaign. These include facilities as varied as Franklin Park, the city's largest park, and such small parks as Beauford and Elm Hill.

TABLE 1

BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN ROXBURY, 1987-1992

PARK	INVESTMENT
Highland Park	100,000
Clifford	50,000
Crawford	145,000
Edgerly Road	120,000
Hannon	213,000
Horatio Harris	20,000
Malcolm X	93,000
Marcella	476,000
Beauford	60,000
Children's	241,000
Erie-Ellington	54,000
Flaherty	75,000
Humboldt	270,000
Lambert	81,000
Quincy Street	63,000
Elm Hill	13,000
Orchard Park	402,000
Trotter	288,000
Jeep Jones	518,000
Ceylon	710,000
Walnut	288,000

TABLE 1 (continued)

PARK	INVESTMENT
Winthrop	357,000
Cedar Square	200,000
Malcolm X	70,000
Quincy Street	35,000
Flaherty	150,000
Mt. Pleasant	288,000
Laviscourt Plaza (PFD)	550,000
Humboldt Avenue Playlot (Franklin Park)	275,000
Walnut Street Playlot (Franklin Park)	130,000
Cross-Country Track, Franklin Park	400,000
Lambert Avenue Play Area (Wall Reconstruction)	380,000

ASSESSMENT

With the third largest total for open space acreage among Boston's neighborhoods, Roxbury possesses great variety in its open spaces. The largest park in Boston, Franklin Park, a pastoral landscape park designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., is Roxbury's strongest link to the Emerald Necklace park system. It includes one of the city's public golf courses, a zoological park, a sports stadium for city youth, and a cross-country track facility of world championship caliber. But it also includes more conventional active recreation features, like ballfields and playlots. Spread throughout the community are smaller parks with landscape and active recreation features. A park with historic and unique features like Highland Park represents one end of the scale; Clifford Playground, with its ballfields, basketball court, and playlot, represents the more functional end of the scale.

Given the richness and multitude of Roxbury's open spaces, one of the assessment approaches is maintenance of effort. The city's Rebuilding Boston program has lead to a large investment in Roxbury's city-owned open space facilities. Its impact has been substantial, with playfields, courts and tot lots back in working order and in full use again. Continuing the capital program will achieve rehabilitation of the remaining undone parks. Improved mechanization, fiscal management techniques,

and productivity measures have lead to improved maintenance; again, continuing to "maintain the maintenance standards" will help protect the inventory of well-distributed facilities throughout Roxbury. A third element that links the capital reconstruction program and the maintenance program is improved design to allow for better access and visibility that encourages appropriate use and respect for the public realm. This leads to longevity of the capital improvements, easier, more efficient maintenance, and happier users. All these elements are brought together through the community-involved design process, the Regional Administrators, and on-going capital and neighborhood planning by the Planning and Development Unit. These on-going and interactive processes will assure that existing facilities are refined and made more usable for the community.

A second approach is to look at new initiatives to deal with existing facilities needing improvement. Three items come to mind: thoroughfares, schoolyards, and Roxbury Heritage State Park. These are existing facilities that do not meet their fullest open space potential. As discussed in the special topic report on trees, thoroughfares is an on-going initiative of the city. A need has been identified in the open space study for the BRA Roxbury IPOD planning process for thoroughfare improvements:

"Many of the most visible parts of the public realm -- such as the streetscapes of the Roxbury IPOD's major thoroughfares... -- are environmenatally barren or often unkempt."

"There is a strong sense of pride within the community regarding Roxbury's social, topographical, and architectural history, and a consensus that ... streetscaping, tree planting ... should be used to focus local and the general publics' attention on Roxbury's unique gifts and heritage."

Roxbury is traversed by several important thoroughfares -- Melnea Cass Boulevard, Blue Hill Avenue, and Columbia Road are just a few -- that could use improved landscape treatments. Thoroughfares initiatives now underway in Roxbury include the proposed BDOT Columbia Road reconstruction, the PFD "Blue-on-Green" vacant lot green-up initiative on Blue Hill Avenue from Dudley Street to Grove Hall, and the PFD Neighborhood Enterprise streetscape initiative on Blue Hill Avenue at Grove Hall. Additional thoroughfares improvements in Roxbury will further improve its public image, benefitting residents and encouraging new investments, both private and public. They will also serve to connect open spaces together and link open spaces to the neighborhoods they serve.

Schoolyards can provide benefits to schoolchildren and resident children alike, such as the learning of social skills and self-confidence, the need for determined, sustained effort to reach goals, and improved physical fitness. With such facilities well-distributed in Roxbury, it can provide a complement to city parks, particularly during the school day. Yet most of these spaces are paved, barren, and poorly maintained. With tall fences surrounding them, they often give the image of a holding pen rather than a nurturing space for physical and social growth. The city needs to develop a consistent strategy, and institutional mechanisms to carry out the strategy, for schoolyard improvement that will yield successes similar to those experienced by city parks in recent years.

The Roxbury Heritage State Park is a project whose progress is on hold. With the state budget highly constrained by structural problems and economic hard times, no significant action will be achieved in the foreseeable future toward realizing this park. The richness of Roxbury's history, architecture, urban fabric, and people need the attention and investment a Heritage State Park can provide. This project, using existing resources, will be another boon to Roxbury's image and future economic revival.

A third assessment approach is new needs and opportunities. Community input has identified needs for soccer fields, tot lots and spray pools (especially to service day care centers and family day care providers), and in general, close-to-home recreation. With much vacant land available in Roxbury, opportunities to develop family housing should include the development of children's play areas. The Public Facilities Department's 747 program has often worked to develop such play opportunities along with housing. This is the approach also being taken by the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative.

Vacant land availability may generate opportunities for tot lots, soccer fields, and other active recreation facilities. However, given Roxbury's topography and geology, the slopes and the proximity of bedrock to surface make construction of such facilities difficult despite any availability of suitably sized and configured vacant parcels. This approach may hold more promise in the abstract than in reality, particularly when buildable sites could also hold much needed housing. A balanced planning approach -- one that weighs future residents' open space and housing needs, translates that into appropriate land use allocations, and engages a design process incorporating community input with maintainable facilities -- is needed. This coordinated approach must be developed among agencies such as the Public Facilities Department, the Boston Redevelopment Authority, and the Parks Department.

Once part of one of many estates in 18th and early 19th century Roxbury, the Shirley-Eustis House is now a restored mansion in a mixed residential-industrial area on Roxbury's eastern edge. Much city-owned vacant land surrounds the House. The Shirley-Eustis House Association, owner of the mansion, has expressed an interest in acquiring vacant land in the vicinity. Such an effort would recreate the 18th to 19th century landscape, provide the residential neighborhood with an appropriate buffer to the nearby industrial uses, and provide the neighborhood with open greenspaces accessible to local residents and children. A cooperative arrangement with the city could yield an exciting public-private-community partnership to acquire, protect, and maintain greenspace that is lacking in this neighborhood.

Because of the distinctiveness of the Highland Park and Egleston Square sub-areas, each such sub-area will have a separate "The Next Five Years" section below.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS (excluding Egleston Square and Highland Park)

With a large inventory of city parks, the last five years has been a significant re-investment in Roxbury's open space through the Rebuilding Boston capital campaign. Maintenance and security are two important themes emerging from the community participation process. Underserved areas with vacant lots available should receive planning for adequate open space as these areas are re-developed. Franklin Park's dual role as citywide regional park and neighborhood open space resource should be strengthened. As a neighborhood of historic and cultural diversity rich in open space resources, linkage concepts like gateways, greenways and urban trails will be addressed.

OPPORTUNITIES

- o Work with the BRA on the new open spaces to be created in conjunction with the new Dudley bus terminal
- o Franklin Park Master Plan recommendations should be supported, especially the rehabilitation of the Humboldt Avenue Entrance Playlot. Another priority action will be the development of a visitor center in Franklin Park. This will help insure the proper marketing and outreach to surrounding communities and visitors from throughout the city. Support the rehabilitation of the Franklin Park Zoo by the Commonwealth Zoological Corporation.
- o Work toward implementation of the recommendations that arose from the BRA IPOD process:
 - greenways: study the recommended streets and develop neighborhood-based tree care programs
 - protect and preserve urban wilds through BPRD maintenance services as needed
 - assist community gardens with BPRD maintenance services as needed
 - advocate for the land banking of vacant land for open space development when residential and commercial development occurs on other vacant parcels in sub-areas of Sav-Mor (southern portion), Quincy-Geneva, and Washington Park South (eastern portion). These are the sub-areas with the least amount of open space resources.
- o With the rezoning of Roxbury finalized, approximately 50-60 open space districts have been designated. Work with the BRA, the Parks Commission, and other regulatory bodies to protect these open space districts.
- o As with other large BPS school campuses and facilities, promote the transfer of management of the Madison Park High School campus and White Stadium (in Franklin Park) to BPRD with an appropriate funding vehicle.

- Do fundraising work for a feasibility study on designating an urban trail for bicyclists and pedestrians linking places of recreational, historic, cultural, and open space significance in Roxbury. This should also include interpretive signage on the broad scope of African-American history. This should be coordinated with the efforts of the Roxbury State Heritage Park.
- Work with the state and the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative to realize the Town Common (open space/civic area) proposed for the Blue Hill Avenue/Dudley Street intersection.
- Improve programming at Mary Hannon Playground in support of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative's open space efforts. Schedule construction of a drinking fountain at Hannon as soon as budget priorities allow.
- Assist the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative's efforts to create new open space/community center complexes in their project area and renovate existing open spaces such as Boriquen Plaza. Work with DSNI and BNAF to incorporate open space into DSNI-sponsored projects.
- Promote PFD efforts to improve the Blue Hill Avenue Corridor (Green-on-Blue) and the Grove Hall neighborhood enterprise zone. Work with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services' Adopt-a-Lot Program, by supplying Boston Youth Clean-up Corps crews and other assistance, to improve vacant land as a neighborhood open space resource.
- Expand the recreational usage of the Emerson School playground. This will not only support DSNI's efforts, but will also complement the Shirley-Eustis House Association open space initiative.
- Support and assist the open space planning efforts of the Shirley-Eustis House Association. Historical and unprogrammed greenspace in this portion of the Dudley Street neighborhood will provide an unmet need in the community and for the students of the Emerson School. It will also provide a buffer between the industrial and residential uses in the neighborhood. Vacant city-owned land in this area provides an opportunity to meet these needs.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

- The city needs to take a more proactive stance on open space, including better interagency coordination.

- o Citizens need to get active in asking the state Department of Public Works to clean-up Melnea Cass Boulevard, and to do such clean-ups on a regular, consistent basis.

- o Dudley Square Plaza: a group is being formed to improve it, such as inviting street performers and planting trees. A plan is needed for the Dudley Square area.

- o Maintenance should definitely remain a high priority for the parks in this neighborhood. Increased maintenance levels will address the intensive use of these parks. One example, Malcolm X Park needs better tree maintenance and planting. Horatio Harris Park needs better removal of broken glass.

- o Programming:

Parks used to have attendants. Explore use of on-site parkkeepers when budget priorities allow.

Ask youth in the area for their ideas, needs.

More programming for youth is needed.

Elderly need passive green spaces, should get free golf lessons at Franklin Park Golf Course.

Explore the churches organizing more outings for the kids.

More little leagues and youth soccer leagues are needed.

- o More security (BPD and Municipal Police) needed in our parks.

- o Provide benches that discourage sleeping.

- o Continue to rehabilitate Parks facilities in Roxbury, including passive facilities like Clifford Park, Inwood Square, Kittredge Square, and Highland Park; and active facilities like the Malcolm X Park ballfields, Marcella Playgorund, Crawford, Hannon, King Street (playlot), Howe (playlot and fencing), and St. James Park.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS: EGLESTON SQUARE

Several key planning themes emerged in our outreach to the Egleston Square community. The diverse recreational needs of a culturally diverse community was the major theme. Young girls and youth in general have unmet recreational needs. Resources available to meet these needs include the other themes: Franklin Park, vacant lots, and deeper, more organized community involvement.

OPPORTUNITIES

- o Work with the MBTA on interim and final use plans to incorporate open space into the "T" site at Egleston Square. PFD will be the lead on disposition, with Parks as advisors on open space and the Egleston Square Neighborhood Association reflecting community input.
- o Work with PFD on their housing strategy planning to include open space on appropriate vacant lots: parcels that will generate buildable, manageable open space. Concentrate on the needy area west on Washington Street and Columbus Avenue. Develop two-hoop (full) basketball courts on available sites.
- o Making major thoroughfares like Columbus Avenue, Washington Street, and Seaver Street more green and bicycle-friendly will improve the area's image as well as enhance its open space.
- o Franklin Park's Walnut Avenue Entrance Playlot will be restored. An effort will be made to promote a naturalistic design in keeping with the nature-oriented park surroundings.
- o When capital budget priorities allow, BPRD will implement the Franklin Park Master Plan recommendation to develop a major park activity area at the Bear Dens: food concessions, children's play facilities, including a carousel. In the near term, stabilization of the Bear Dens will be incorporated into the capital program.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

- o Franklin Park
Better marketing and more outreach needed to community groups in the surrounding neighborhood to make them aware of Franklin Park as a resource; the neighborhood needs to know about events and programs (many believe the park only offers the zoo and golf course) and that the security situation is improving. More programming and security (more Rangers may help) would be desirable in Franklin Park. A Franklin Park brochure

and other literature (in Spanish, Cape Verdean, and English) would help in marketing and image-building.

- o Turf issues exist between different ethnic groups that adversely affect access to Franklin Park
- o Franklin Park golf fees seem steep, limiting access to poorer residents in the surrounding community. [Again, a commentary on the need for better marketing: Tuesday afternoons are free at the golf course.]
- o In a similar vein, a suggestion was offered that the MDC allow free entry to the Franklin Park Children's Zoo.
- o Use White Stadium more for special events. Management by Boston Parks Department would probably improve the situation there.
- o Need better courts and other facilities at Franklin Park. A visitor center will help invite people into the park and increase familiarity with it.
- o Would like more open spaces developed out of vacant lots. Where can the funding come for this? The city or alternative sources? Tap into the PFD inventory of unbuildable vacant lots for immediate, interim use. The Castle Square model (South End): recreation development before the housing development in areas with vacant land resources: can this be a model for the old Egleston Square bus station area (the "T" site)?
- o Target youth with facilities and programming
- o More passive green space needed
- o Need to meet the diverse recreational needs of this culturally diverse neighborhood
- o needs of young girls: basketball, tennis; can such facilities for them be found close to home?
- o Need to organize leagues to use the facilities
- o Need off-street spray pools as well as more street blocking permits for safe hydrant use
- o Need for partnerships to make green space work: better interaction between the community and the city needed: more proactive on both sides.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS: HIGHLAND PARK

Highland Park is rich in open space: five city parks were rehabilitated in the past five years, for a total in capital improvements of \$1,435,00 and there are still substantial green space objectives to accomplish. The park called Highland Park or Fort Hill needs further action in accord with its recent master plan. Safety and security are general community priorities and there are specific issues for Marcella Playground. A pedestrian link will greatly enhance the existing open space system. Other needs can be summed up by addressing several small derelict lots and parks.

OPPORTUNITIES

Support Roxbury Heritage State Park with a pedestrian trail (see below) and by rehabilitating and reopening the Highland Park standpipe (tower) when the Heritage State Park is open.

Along with current rehabilitation of Jeep Jones Park, rehabilitate the city-owned property across King Street, called White Fund Playlot #4. Current needs and the original playlot design can guide the new design.

Clear and develop derelict properties to create additional open space. This includes the Parks Department's neglected play area at 95 Thornton Street, a housing site on Cedar Street when it is developed, the Cedar Street urban wild, and the MBTA yard when it is developed for affordable housing.

Establish a pedestrian walk to connect open space in the Highland Park neighborhood from John Eliot Square, down Highland Street to Alvah Kittredge Park, across Linwood Street to Linwood Square, and from Cooper's Place Community Garden down to the Cedar Street Urban Wild and from there up Cedar Park Street and Highland Park Street to the Highland Park tower/standpipe.

Strengthen communications between various agencies with jurisdiction over open space. Public/private partnerships may be established to assist with specific open space objectives.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Maintain neighborhood parks at present level.

Improve tree maintenance.

Provide community/public partnerships - Specifically:
Hawthorne Youth and Community Center will help with tree maintenance in Marcella Playground. The community would like to help develop the pedestrian walk (see previous page).

Highland Park (Fort Hill) - Replace play equipment and institute turf management program.

Marcella Playground - Adjust lights at basketball court and street lights on Highland Street side. Improve lighting on the Marcella/Richie Street side to address security issues. Alleviate pedestrian/vehicle conflicts with crossing or traffic lights at Richie/Marcella corner and Highland/Marcella corner. Work with Boston Police Department of enforce no parking regulations on abutting streets. Post and enforce No Parking all along the park side of Richie Street.

HISTORY

Roslindale became part of Boston as part of the 1873 annexation of West Roxbury. While its boundaries are a subject of dispute, its heart is distinct -- Roslindale Square. Again, this distinctiveness derives from its history as a classic streetcar suburb. Until the late 1800's extension of mass transit to Roslindale Square, this area was a rural community. The railroad and streetcar made it a "garden suburb." Washington Street, running through Roslindale Square, is the commercial spine of Roslindale. The Square is the subject of historic preservation "Main Street" awards, proving the value of historic and aesthetic values in economic revitalization.

DEMOGRAPHICS/HOUSING

After population increased in the 1950's and the 1960's, the 1970's saw a precipitous drop in Roslindale's population. The population has held steady during the early part of the 1980's.

Its age distribution closely approximates Boston's. Racially, Roslindale is overwhelmingly white. Its predominant household type is traditional families and couples. Fewer persons were in poverty status as compared to Boston (6% versus 21%, respectively), and median household income was higher in Roslindale than in Boston (\$22,450 versus \$19,250, respectively). Labor force participation among persons aged 16 years and older was larger (74%) than for Boston (66%), but Roslindale had a comparable (7%) unemployment rate to Boston's (6%).

Over three-quarters of Roslindale's housing stock is in 1-4 unit structures. These often have backyards, sometimes sizeable. Thirteen percent (13%) of its housing stock is publicly-owned or -assisted. As expected in this suburban neighborhood, only 18% of households has no vehicles available, as compared to 39% of all of Boston's households.

THE OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

EQUITY AND INVESTMENT

Roslindale has a total of 195.95 acres in its open space inventory of parks, playgrounds, squares, and malls both under Parks Department and other public jurisdictions (see

ROSLINDALE
The town of Roslindale is located in the north-western part of the city of Boston. It is a residential town with a population of approximately 15,000. The town is bounded by the city of Boston to the east and the city of Cambridge to the west. The town is situated on the Roslindale River, which flows into the city of Boston. The town is known for its beautiful scenery and its historic architecture. The town is also known for its excellent schools and its vibrant community. The town is a great place to live and visit.

ROSLINDALE

1950

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THE OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

RODITY AND INVESTMENT

Roslindale has a total of 1,250 acres in its open space system. This includes the Roslindale River, the Roslindale Park, and the Roslindale Golf Course. The town is also known for its excellent schools and its vibrant community. The town is a great place to live and visit.

The interior of the neighborhood contains much smaller tracts that help serve the area's active recreation needs: Fallon, Healy, and Parkman. But two measures lead to the conclusion that additional active recreational opportunities are needed in this neighborhood. One is that several residential areas, such as the area south and west of Roslindale Square, and the area east of Hyde Park Avenue and south of Walk Hill Street, are underserved by playlots and other active recreation facilities. The other is the limited amount of general purpose recreational lands per capita. The 195.95 total acres in Roslindale is the result of including the 185.50 acres of George Wright Golf Course in the total acreage figure. Given its specialized nature and user group, the golf course inflates the 6.46 acres per 1000 persons; without the 158.50 acres, the "per capita" figure falls to only 1.24 acres.

The mitigating factor, as in such suburban neighborhoods as Hyde Park and West Roxbury, is the ample backyard space of most of the housing stock. Yet pressure does exist to provide more playlots and ballfields, especially soccer fields for this neighborhood with a large immigrant population. When opportunities exist in this mature, stable, developed neighborhood to create new active open space, it should be seized. One opportunity is the former MDC Pagel Playground, now in the state's surplus land inventory. It is located in one of Roslindale's underserved areas. Its Hyde Park Avenue frontage both helps and hinders accessibility. As a major arterial, it is fed by the neighborhood's local streets. But this major arterial which services the residential and industrial areas of Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, and Hyde Park has a heavy traffic load. The need to safely cross Hyde Park Avenue will be an issue to solve in order to take advantage of this opportunity.

Another opportunity is the Walter Street tract, a Harvard University holding adjacent to the Peters Hill section of the Arnold Arboretum. With the Arboretum beginning to engage in a master plan process, this Walter Street tract should be considered for permanent protection as designated open space, and for development as a passive landscaped park that takes pressure off the Arboretum and better serves Roslindale and West Roxbury residents. To keep this tract open rather than urbanized will also assure better water quality and flood control for the Bussey Brook.

Inventory). This constitutes a 6.2% share of the city's total open space. Roslindale's share of Boston's total population is 5.3%. Seen another way, these figures translate into 6.46 acres per thousand persons, above the city average of 5.55 acres.

The City of Boston's Parks Department invested close to \$3.8 million in improving its four major recreation facilities in Roslindale: Adams Park in Roslindale Square, Healy Playground, Parkman Playground, and Fallon Field (see Table 1 below).

TABLE 1

BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN MATTAPAN, 1987-1991

PARK	INVESTMENT
Parkman	335,000
Adams	200,000
Mt. Hope	60,000
Fallon (I)	460,000
Healy (PFD)	1,954,000
(including Healy Pool)	
Fallon (II)	173,000
Mt. Hope (PFD)	600,000
(Maintenance Garage)	

*Mt. Hope is one of the city's active cemeteries, run by the Parks Department.

ASSESSMENT

While its acknowledged boundaries are not distinct, it is bounded by larger open spaces. To the east are several large cemeteries like Forest Hills and Mount Hope, and the large institutional campus of Boston State Hospital. To the north, the Arnold Arboretum and the Bussey Brook urban wild; to the west, the MDC West Roxbury Parkway, and to the south, George Wright Golf Course. Except for Arnold Arboretum and George Wright Golf Course, both essentially passive landscaped parks, these spaces serve more a (vital) greenbelt function -- containing development -- rather than serving the recreational needs of Roslindale's residents.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

- o Need for more playgrounds and totlots in the Mt. Hope area: Pagel should be rehabbed.
- o Now during the development bust, there is a need to plan for greenspace in the community. Growth should include greenspace as well as developed uses.
- o Concern for development controls: notification of community must be early in the process so that open space can be protected.
- o Need for an advocacy group for Roslindale greenspace.
- o The Bussey Brook urban wild along South Street needs to be protected. Canterbury urban wild needs to be cleaned up. Improvements to provide limited access (people, not cars) should be developed for both this and the Eldon Street urban wilds.
- o A vacant tract surrounded by the MBTA tracks, Fowle, Rome, and Blakemore Streets has natural characteristics. It should be protected from dumping and made more accessible.
- o Improve the Fallon Field playlot, particularly the grading of the paved areas.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

The rehabilitation of Roslindale's city recreation facilities (Fallon, Healy, Parkman) and open spaces (e.g., Adams Square) has accompanied the overall strengthening of this neighborhood in the past few years. Yet several sub-areas remain underserved by open space. Improved use of existing resources will be a key strategy, such as the rehabilitation of surplussed MDC facilities, such as in in the Mount Hope area (Pagel) and the development of the underutilized Harvard University holding (a/k/a Joyce Kilmer Park). Major city thoroughfares should be greened in keeping with the green character of Roslindale's residential neighborhoods. As in other areas, urban wilds need to be made more accessible and protected from development threats.

OPPORTUNITIES

- o Need for more land for playlots, ballfields, courts, and other facilities in many underserved sections of this neighborhood. The Department will explore every opportunity to increase the amount of these facilities in this neighborhood.
- o The Mount Hope neighborhood has a strong need for active open space, including a totlot. A state-owned former playground, Pagel, on Hyde Park Avenue, offers an opportunity to serve this community. The Department will explore ways of funding the capital rehabilitation of this site.
- o Forest Hills Cemetery is a rich open space and cultural resource. With cooperation of owners, explore possibility of Ranger tours through grounds, and willingness to include as a destination on a brochure-guided bike tour of city cemeteries. With the many lightly trafficked roads and pastoral environments, many of the city cemeteries can become suitable attractions for local bicycle enthusiasts.
- o Green-up and make more bicycle-friendly such major neighborhood thoroughfares as South Street, Walter Street, Centre Street, Cummins Highway, Hyde Park Avenue, and American Legion Highway. Support the Boston Transportation Department effort to include street trees in the reconstruction of Washington Street, a key link between the Emerald Necklace and the MDC Stony Brook Reservation.
- o The Harvard-owned parcel between Walter, Weld, and Centre Streets, abutting the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center, should be considered in the proposed Arnold Arboretum Master Plan. An Olmsted-inspired design for a passive open space that makes the Arboretum closer and more accessible to the Roslindale neighborhood would be welcome transformation of this underutilized parcel.

including Egleston Square and Highland Park

HISTORY

Founded in 1639, the town of Roxbury was settled by Puritan English farmers. Eventually, by the 18th century, rural homes and country estates of Boston's wealthy families also occupied this area. The Roxbury farms provided fresh produce to Boston, which became a dense settlement specializing in maritime commerce. Orange Street connected Roxbury to the Shawmut Peninsula -- Boston -- via the narrow neck between Back Bay and South Cove. In 1789, George Washington visited Boston traveling overland from Roxbury on Orange Street. In honor of this national hero, Orange Street was renamed Washington Street.

By the 19th century, Roxbury's rural character began to change. With mass transit lines running into Roxbury, housing was built for people commuting to Boston. By the mid-19th century, Lower Roxbury, Roxbury's northern section, was a full-fledged industrial mill town providing jobs for Roxbury residents. By the late 1800's, with streetcar service now penetrating Roxbury, residential development was rapid and extensive. In exchange for new gas, water, and sewer lines, Roxbury was annexed to Boston in 1868.

Soon thereafter, the Boston parks movement began to influence Roxbury. Boston's "country" park, comparable to Central Park in New York, Prospect Park in Brooklyn, and Mount Royal Park in Montreal, was to be Franklin Park in newly annexed Roxbury. Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, it was one of the destinations of choice on a Sunday afternoon for all Boston residents in the late 19th century. Franklin Park became the location of Boston's first playground and the nation's first municipal golf course.

The 20th century erosion of Boston's industrial base impacted Roxbury adversely, as did the continual flight of middle class residents to less dense suburbs surrounding Boston. In the decades of the 1940's and 1950's, the racial composition of Roxbury changed from 80% white to 80% non-white. Housing deterioration in many sections accompanied this change as the newer residents were poorer migrants from the South.

The 1960's saw a major urban renewal effort in the residential Washington Park area of Roxbury. Along with this public investment, black middle class professionals had begun to move in as well, attracted by the historic housing stock, much of it still in good condition.

With the abandonment in the 40's and 50's of much housing and property, vacant land became abundant. This led to a

strong grassroots community gardening movement, still an important feature of community revitalization efforts. Another community effort, a campaign to stop the extension of I-95 into downtown Boston, ultimately generated the Southwest Corridor Park in 1988, Boston's first major new open space in almost a century. Other lands acquired for the highway right-of-way, such as Parcel 18, are now beginning to be developed. It is hoped that this will contribute to a economic revival in Roxbury.

DEMOGRAPHICS/HOUSING

The major population trend in Roxbury was population loss from 1950 (121,828) to 1980 (57,751). However, a turn-around can be discerned, as indicated by the 1985 figure of 58,475 (BRA and PFD Household Survey, 1985).

Roxbury has a larger proportion of its population in the 0-14 age cohort than does Boston (23% versus 17%, respectively). Three-quarters of Roxbury's people are black and 13% are Hispanic. A larger proportion of Roxbury's households are traditional families and couples than in Boston (39% versus 36%, respectively) but Roxbury's share of single-parent households is much larger than for Boston as a whole (29% versus 16%, respectively). Roxbury residents had a lower median income than the Boston figure (\$13,000 versus \$19,250, respectively) and a higher percentage in poverty status (31% versus 21%, respectively). Roxbury residents aged 16 years and over have a lower labor force participation rate than for all such Boston residents (61% versus 66%, respectively). The percent of Roxbury's residents in the labor force who are unemployed is significantly higher than for Boston (14% versus 6%, respectively). Roxbury has a higher percentage of households with no vehicles than does Boston (52% versus 39%, respectively).

Housing is a critical concern in Roxbury. Roxbury has a higher percentage of publicly-owned or -assisted units than any other neighborhood. Roxbury has a lower percentage of owner-occupied units among the remaining housing stock -- mainly 1-4 unit structures -- than does Boston (51% versus 73%, respectively).

OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

EQUITY AND INVESTMENT

Roxbury has a total of 562.46 acres in its open space inventory of parks, playgrounds, squares, and malls both under

Parks Department and other public jurisdictions (see Inventory). This is the second largest total open space acreage in a Boston neighborhood. This constitutes a 17.7% share of the city's total open space. Roxbury's share of Boston's total population is 10.3%, the third most populous Boston neighborhood, after Allston-Brighton and South Dorchester. Seen another way, these figures translate into 9.5 acres per thousand persons, above the city average of 5.6 acres. A recent open space acquisition for Roxbury is the addition of a tenth of an acre of vacant land to the existing quarter-acre Mt. Pleasant Play Area. This has enabled a larger park to be re-developed on this site through the Rebuilding Boston capital program.

The City of Boston's Parks Department invested over \$7 million in improving its thirty-one recreation facilities in Roxbury through the Rebuilding Boston campaign. These include facilities as varied as Franklin Park, the city's largest park, and such small parks as Beauford and Elm Hill.

TABLE 1

BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN ROXBURY, 1987-1992

PARK	INVESTMENT
Highland Park	100,000
Clifford	50,000
Crawford	145,000
Edgerly Road	120,000
Hannon	213,000
Horatio Harris	20,000
Malcolm X	93,000
Marcella	476,000
Beauford	60,000
Children's	241,000
Erie-Ellington	54,000
Flaherty	75,000
Humboldt	270,000
Lambert	81,000
Quincy Street	63,000
Elm Hill	13,000
Orchard Park	402,000
Trotter	288,000
Jeep Jones	518,000
Ceylon	710,000
Walnut	288,000

TABLE 1 (continued)

PARK	INVESTMENT
Winthrop	357,000
Cedar Square	200,000
Malcolm X	70,000
Quincy Street	35,000
Flaherty	150,000
Mt. Pleasant	288,000
Laviscourt Plaza (PFD)	550,000
Humboldt Avenue Playlot (Franklin Park)	275,000
Walnut Street Playlot (Franklin Park)	130,000
Cross-Country Track, Franklin Park	400,000
Lambert Avenue Play Area (Wall Reconstruction)	380,000

ASSESSMENT

With the third largest total for open space acreage among Boston's neighborhoods, Roxbury possesses great variety in its open spaces. The largest park in Boston, Franklin Park, a pastoral landscape park designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., is Roxbury's strongest link to the Emerald Necklace park system. It includes one of the city's public golf courses, a zoological park, a sports stadium for city youth, and a cross-country track facility of world championship caliber. But it also includes more conventional active recreation features, like ballfields and playlots. Spread throughout the community are smaller parks with landscape and active recreation features. A park with historic and unique features like Highland Park represents one end of the scale; Clifford Playground, with its ballfields, basketball court, and playlot, represents the more functional end of the scale.

Given the richness and multitude of Roxbury's open spaces, one of the assessment approaches is maintenance of effort. The city's Rebuilding Boston program has lead to a large investment in Roxbury's city-owned open space facilities. Its impact has been substantial, with playfields, courts and tot lots back in working order and in full use again. Continuing the capital program will achieve rehabilitation of the remaining undone parks. Improved mechanization, fiscal management techniques,

and productivity measures have lead to improved maintenance; again, continuing to "maintain the maintenance standards" will help protect the inventory of well-distributed facilities throughout Roxbury. A third element that links the capital reconstruction program and the maintenance program is improved design to allow for better access and visibility that encourages appropriate use and respect for the public realm. This leads to longevity of the capital improvements, easier, more efficient maintenance, and happier users. All these elements are brought together through the community-involved design process, the Regional Administrators, and on-going capital and neighborhood planning by the Planning and Development Unit. These on-going and interactive processes will assure that existing facilities are refined and made more usable for the community.

A second approach is to look at new initiatives to deal with existing facilities needing improvement. Three items come to mind: thoroughfares, schoolyards, and Roxbury Heritage State Park. These are existing facilities that do not meet their fullest open space potential. As discussed in the special topic report on trees, thoroughfares is an on-going initiative of the city. A need has been identified in the open space study for the BRA Roxbury IPOD planning process for thoroughfare improvements:

"Many of the most visible parts of the public realm -- such as the streetscapes of the Roxbury IPOD's major thoroughfares... -- are environmenatally barren or often unkempt."

"There is a strong sense of pride within the community regarding Roxbury's social, topographical, and architectural history, and a consensus that ... streetscaping, tree planting ... should be used to focus local and the general publics' attention on Roxbury's unique gifts and heritage."

Roxbury is traversed by several important thoroughfares -- Melnea Cass Boulevard, Blue Hill Avenue, and Columbia Road are just a few -- that could use improved landscape treatments. Thoroughfares initiatives now underway in Roxbury include the proposed BDOT Columbia Road reconstruction, the PFD "Blue-on-Green" vacant lot green-up initiative on Blue Hill Avenue from Dudley Street to Grove Hall, and the PFD Neighborhood Enterprise streetscape initiative on Blue Hill Avenue at Grove Hall. Additional thoroughfares improvements in Roxbury will further improve its public image, benefitting residents and encouraging new investments, both private and public. They will also serve to connect open spaces together and link open spaces to the neighborhoods they serve.

Schoolyards can provide benefits to schoolchildren and resident children alike, such as the learning of social skills and self-confidence, the need for determined, sustained effort to reach goals, and improved physical fitness. With such facilities well-distributed in Roxbury, it can provide a complement to city parks, particularly during the school day. Yet most of these spaces are paved, barren, and poorly maintained. With tall fences surrounding them, they often give the image of a holding pen rather than a nurturing space for physical and social growth. The city needs to develop a consistent strategy, and institutional mechanisms to carry out the strategy, for schoolyard improvement that will yield successes similar to those experienced by city parks in recent years.

The Roxbury Heritage State Park is a project whose progress is on hold. With the state budget highly constrained by structural problems and economic hard times, no significant action will be achieved in the foreseeable future toward realizing this park. The richness of Roxbury's history, architecture, urban fabric, and people need the attention and investment a Heritage State Park can provide. This project, using existing resources, will be another boon to Roxbury's image and future economic revival.

A third assessment approach is new needs and opportunities. Community input has identified needs for soccer fields, tot lots and spray pools (especially to service day care centers and family day care providers), and in general, close-to-home recreation. With much vacant land available in Roxbury, opportunities to develop family housing should include the development of children's play areas. The Public Facilities Department's 747 program has often worked to develop such play opportunities along with housing. This is the approach also being taken by the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative.

Vacant land availability may generate opportunities for tot lots, soccer fields, and other active recreation facilities. However, given Roxbury's topography and geology, the slopes and the proximity of bedrock to surface make construction of such facilities difficult despite any availability of suitably sized and configured vacant parcels. This approach may hold more promise in the abstract than in reality, particularly when buildable sites could also hold much needed housing. A balanced planning approach -- one that weighs future residents' open space and housing needs, translates that into appropriate land use allocations, and engages a design process incorporating community input with maintainable facilities -- is needed. This coordinated approach must be developed among agencies such as the Public Facilities Department, the Boston Redevelopment Authority, and the Parks Department.

Once part of one of many estates in 18th and early 19th century Roxbury, the Shirley-Eustis House is now a restored mansion in a mixed residential-industrial area on Roxbury's eastern edge. Much city-owned vacant land surrounds the House. The Shirley-Eustis House Association, owner of the mansion, has expressed an interest in acquiring vacant land in the vicinity. Such an effort would recreate the 18th to 19th century landscape, provide the residential neighborhood with an appropriate buffer to the nearby industrial uses, and provide the neighborhood with open greenspaces accessible to local residents and children. A cooperative arrangement with the city could yield an exciting public-private-community partnership to acquire, protect, and maintain greenspace that is lacking in this neighborhood.

Because of the distinctiveness of the Highland Park and Egleston Square sub-areas, each such sub-area will have a separate "The Next Five Years" section below.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS (excluding Egleston Square and Highland Park)

With a large inventory of city parks, the last five years has been a significant re-investment in Roxbury's open space through the Rebuilding Boston capital campaign. Maintenance and security are two important themes emerging from the community participation process. Underserved areas with vacant lots available should receive planning for adequate open space as these areas are re-developed. Franklin Park's dual role as citywide regional park and neighborhood open space resource should be strengthened. As a neighborhood of historic and cultural diversity rich in open space resources, linkage concepts like gateways, greenways and urban trails will be addressed.

OPPORTUNITIES

- o Work with the BRA on the new open spaces to be created in conjunction with the new Dudley bus terminal
- o Franklin Park Master Plan recommendations should be supported, especially the rehabilitation of the Humboldt Avenue Entrance Playlot. Another priority action will be the development of a visitor center in Franklin Park. This will help insure the proper marketing and outreach to surrounding communities and visitors from throughout the city. Support the rehabilitation of the Franklin Park Zoo by the Commonwealth Zoological Corporation.
- o Work toward implementation of the recommendations that arose from the BRA IPOD process:
 - greenways: study the recommended streets and develop neighborhood-based tree care programs
 - protect and preserve urban wilds through BPRD maintenance services as needed
 - assist community gardens with BPRD maintenance services as needed
 - advocate for the land banking of vacant land for open space development when residential and commercial development occurs on other vacant parcels in sub-areas of Sav-Mor (southern portion), Quincy-Geneva, and Washington Park South (eastern portion). These are the sub-areas with the least amount of open space resources.
- o With the rezoning of Roxbury finalized, approximately 50-60 open space districts have been designated. Work with the BRA, the Parks Commission, and other regulatory bodies to protect these open space districts.
- o As with other large BPS school campuses and facilities, promote the transfer of management of the Madison Park High School campus and White Stadium (in Franklin Park) to BPRD with an appropriate funding vehicle.

- o Do fundraising work for a feasibility study on designating an urban trail for bicyclists and pedestrians linking places of recreational, historic, cultural, and open space significance in Roxbury. This should also include interpretive signage on the broad scope of African-American history. This should be coordinated with the efforts of the Roxbury State Heritage Park.
- o Work with the state and the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative to realize the Town Common (open space/civic area) proposed for the Blue Hill Avenue/Dudley Street intersection.
- o Improve programming at Mary Hannon Playground in support of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative's open space efforts. Schedule construction of a drinking fountain at Hannon as soon as budget priorities allow.
- o Assist the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative's efforts to create new open space/community center complexes in their project area and renovate existing open spaces such as Boriquen Plaza. Work with DSNI and BNAF to incorporate open space into DSNI-sponsored projects.
- o Promote PFD efforts to improve the Blue Hill Avenue Corridor (Green-on-Blue) and the Grove Hall neighborhood enterprise zone. Work with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services' Adopt-a-Lot Program, by supplying Boston Youth Clean-up Corps crews and other assistance, to improve vacant land as a neighborhood open space resource.
- o Expand the recreational usage of the Emerson School playground. This will not only support DSNI's efforts, but will also complement the Shirley-Eustis House Association open space initiative.
- o Support and assist the open space planning efforts of the Shirley-Eustis House Association. Historical and unprogrammed greenspace in this portion of the Dudley Street neighborhood will provide an unmet need in the community and for the students of the Emerson School. It will also provide a buffer between the industrial and residential uses in the neighborhood. Vacant city-owned land in this area provides an opportunity to meet these needs.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

- o The city needs to take a more proactive stance on open space, including better interagency coordination.

- o Citizens need to get active in asking the state Department of Public Works to clean-up Melnea Cass Boulevard, and to do such clean-ups on a regular, consistent basis.
- o Dudley Square Plaza: a group is being formed to improve it, such as inviting street performers and planting trees. A plan is needed for the Dudley Square area.
- o Maintenance should definitely remain a high priority for the parks in this neighborhood. Increased maintenance levels will address the intensive use of these parks. One example, Malcolm X Park needs better tree maintenance and planting. Horatio Harris Park needs better removal of broken glass.
- o Programming:
 - Parks used to have attendants. Explore use of on-site parkkeepers when budget priorities allow.
 - Ask youth in the area for their ideas, needs.
 - More programming for youth is needed.
 - Elderly need passive green spaces, should get free golf lessons at Franklin Park Golf Course.
 - Explore the churches organizing more outings for the kids.
 - More little leagues and youth soccer leagues are needed.
- o More security (BPD and Municipal Police) needed in our parks.
- o Provide benches that discourage sleeping.
- o Continue to rehabilitate Parks facilities in Roxbury, including passive facilities like Clifford Park, Inwood Square, Kittredge Square, and Highland Park; and active facilities like the Malcolm X Park ballfields, Marcella Playgorund, Crawford, Hannon, King Street (playlot), Howe (playlot and fencing), and St. James Park.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS: EGLESTON SQUARE

Several key planning themes emerged in our outreach to the Egleston Square community. The diverse recreational needs of a culturally diverse community was the major theme. Young girls and youth in general have unmet recreational needs. Resources available to meet these needs include the other themes: Franklin Park, vacant lots, and deeper, more organized community involvement.

OPPORTUNITIES

- o Work with the MBTA on interim and final use plans to incorporate open space into the "T" site at Egleston Square. PFD will be the lead on disposition, with Parks as advisors on open space and the Egleston Square Neighborhood Association reflecting community input.
- o Work with PFD on their housing strategy planning to include open space on appropriate vacant lots: parcels that will generate buildable, manageable open space. Concentrate on the needy area west on Washington Street and Columbus Avenue. Develop two-hoop (full) basketball courts on available sites.
- o Making major thoroughfares like Columbus Avenue, Washington Street, and Seaver Street more green and bicycle-friendly will improve the area's image as well as enhance its open space.
- o Franklin Park's Walnut Avenue Entrance Playlot will be restored. An effort will be made to promote a naturalistic design in keeping with the nature-oriented park surroundings.
- o When capital budget priorities allow, BPRD will implement the Franklin Park Master Plan recommendation to develop a major park activity area at the Bear Dens: food concessions, children's play facilities, including a carousel. In the near term, stabilization of the Bear Dens will be incorporated into the capital program.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

- o Franklin Park
Better marketing and more outreach needed to community groups in the surrounding neighborhood to make them aware of Franklin Park as a resource; the neighborhood needs to know about events and programs (many believe the park only offers the zoo and golf course) and that the security situation is improving. More programming and security (more Rangers may help) would be desirable in Franklin Park. A Franklin Park brochure

Highland Park
Page 2

and other literature (in Spanish, Cape Verdean, and English) would help in marketing and image-building.

- o Turf issues exist between different ethnic groups that adversely affect access to Franklin Park
- o Franklin Park golf fees seem steep, limiting access to poorer residents in the surrounding community. [Again, a commentary on the need for better marketing: Tuesday afternoons are free at the golf course.]
- o In a similar vein, a suggestion was offered that the MDC allow free entry to the Franklin Park Children's Zoo.
- o Use White Stadium more for special events. Management by Boston Parks Department would probably improve the situation there.
- o Need better courts and other facilities at Franklin Park. A visitor center will help invite people into the park and increase familiarity with it.
- o Would like more open spaces developed out of vacant lots. Where can the funding come for this? The city or alternative sources? Tap into the PFD inventory of unbuildable vacant lots for immediate, interim use. The Castle Square model (South End): recreation development before the housing development in areas with vacant land resources: can this be a model for the old Eggleston Square bus station area (the "T" site)?
- o Target youth with facilities and programming
- o More passive green space needed
- o Need to meet the diverse recreational needs of this culturally diverse neighborhood
- o needs of young girls: basketball, tennis; can such facilities for them be found close to home?
- o Need to organize leagues to use the facilities
- o Need off-street spray pools as well as more street blocking permits for safe hydrant use
- o Need for partnerships to make green space work: better interaction between the community and the city needed: more proactive on both sides.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS: HIGHLAND PARK

Highland Park is rich in open space: five city parks were rehabilitated in the past five years, for a total in capital improvements of \$1,435,00 and there are still substantial green space objectives to accomplish. The park called Highland Park or Fort Hill needs further action in accord with its recent master plan. Safety and security are general community priorities and there are specific issues for Marcella Playground. A pedestrian link will greatly enhance the existing open space system. Other needs can be summed up by addressing several small derelict lots and parks.

OPPORTUNITIES

Support Roxbury Heritage State Park with a pedestrian trail (see below) and by rehabilitating and reopening the Highland Park standpipe (tower) when the Heritage State Park is open.

Along with current rehabilitation of Jeep Jones Park, rehabilitate the city-owned property across King Street, called White Fund Playlot #4. Current needs and the original playlot design can guide the new design.

Clear and develop derelict properties to create additional open space. This includes the Parks Department's neglected play area at 95 Thornton Street, a housing site on Cedar Street when it is developed, the Cedar Street urban wild, and the MBTA yard when it is developed for affordable housing.

Establish a pedestrian walk to connect open space in the Highland Park neighborhood from John Eliot Square, down Highland Street to Alvah Kittredge Park, across Linwood Street to Linwood Square, and from Cooper's Place Community Garden down to the Cedar Street Urban Wild and from there up Cedar Park Street and Highland Park Street to the Highland Park tower/standpipe.

Strengthen communications between various agencies with jurisdiction over open space. Public/private partnerships may be established to assist with specific open space objectives.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Maintain neighborhood parks at present level.

Improve tree maintenance.

Provide community/public partnerships - Specifically:
Hawthorne Youth and Community Center will help with tree maintenance in Marcella Playground. The community would like to help develop the pedestrian walk (see previous page).

Highland Park (Fort Hill) - Replace play equipment and institute turf management program.

Marcella Playground - Adjust lights at basketball court and street lights on Highland Street side. Improve lighting on the Marcella/Richie Street side to address security issues. Alleviate pedestrian/vehicle conflicts with crossing or traffic lights at Richie/Marcella corner and Highland/Marcella corner. Work with Boston Police Department of enforce no parking regulations on abutting streets. Post and enforce No Parking all along the park side of Richie Street.

SOUTH BOSTON

1. THE SOUTH BOSTON NEIGHBORHOOD

HISTORY

South Boston began the gradual process of reaching its current shape through land fills after the peninsula was first connected to Boston Proper in 1805 by a bridge. At that time the street grid was laid out and wealthy Yankee investors began to build wooden houses near Telegraph Hill. With the opening of the Old Colony railroad the northern marshes began to be filled in to accommodate a thriving timber and foundry industry. Further landfills created space for larger railroad yards, linking the rail system to the waterfront, as the South Boston port developed into one of the busiest in the country. Simultaneously, South Boston became the home of mainly Irish immigrants who came to work for the industry.

By the end of 19th century South Boston's residential development was complete, much of it simple row houses and detached three-family dwellings. The early part of this century saw the completion of Olmsted's vision to create a grand open space system along the waters edge to be enjoyed by residents. The waterfront's economic decline began after World War II as Boston's maritime industry was severely impacted by changing freight transportation technologies. Many of the piers were abandoned or turned into parking lots. However, in the last two decades there has been an increase in maritime commercial uses with trucking and containerized shipping feeding off the piers. Investments by public agencies like EDIC are revitalizing the port area. In addition recent projects in the Fort Point district indicate a move toward the cultural, institutional and commercial redevelopment of former railroad and industrial land.

SUB_NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILES

South Boston consists of two distinct sub-neighborhoods, the predominantly residential area south of First Street and an industrial area to the north located on flat landfill terrain.

The Residential South Boston Neighborhood : Characterized by a grid pattern residential street network on undulating terrain this area of South Boston is now completely developed with little vacant land available for new projects. While the street grid itself is interspersed with churches, schools, pocket parks and playgrounds, some sited to offer panoramic views of the harbor, its southern shoreline is framed by a continuous open space system of parks, beaches and promenades conceived by F.L. Olmsted. The Strandway connects the playgrounds of Columbus Park to the L Street Beach, which leads to Pleasure Bay and Castle Island.

The Mary Ellen McCormick, Old Colony and West Broadway housing developments dominate the Dorchester Avenue side of the neighborhood.

Dorchester Avenue itself is expanding with commercial uses, specially at Andrews Square, with the rehabilitation of the 'T' station.

The Industrial South Boston--Fort Point and South Boston Piers : In stark contrast to the rest of the neighborhood, the area north of First Street is dominantly industrial and commercial. Much of the land is currently underutilized or vacant, especially between the Fan Piers and the Fish Pier. Less than one percent of the land has been developed for public open space. The EDIC's Marine Industrial Park provides some respite with new tree plantings and a passive recreation park. The piers in the north have been adapted for new uses like exhibition spaces and restaurants or are slated for institutional buildings. The old warehouses along the Fort Point Channel have been converted into offices and cultural facilities like the Children's Museum. They have also become home to a unique community of furniture makers, high quality printers and artists.

DEMOGRAPHICS / HOUSING

South Boston lost almost one third of its population between 1950 and 1970 but has stabilized at around 30,000 persons since those years. However, the neighborhood is considerably younger now, in 1980 only 14% of the community was between 25 and 34 years old. Today, almost about a quarter of the community is in that age bracket. This has been mainly due to an influx of young professionals into the neighborhood in the late 1980s. As far as race composition is concerned, the percentage of whites remains high, 96% by the 1990 census.

Renters dominate the housing stock. In 1985 only a quarter of its housing units were owner occupied. Another quarter of its stock was in public housing, giving South Boston the highest density of public housing of any neighborhood. A artists community has recently emerged in the Fort Point Channel's former industrial lofts, across from downtown Boston.

According to a 1985 survey, South Boston's median family income was one the lowest in Boston at \$13,800 compared to the city wide figure of \$19,250. The same survey indicated that more than half of the neighborhood's households did not own cars, compared to 39% for Boston as a whole. The migration of young professionals into the area however is resulting in higher rents and real estate prices.

TABLE 1

**BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH BOSTON 1987-1992**

PARK	INVESTMENT
Columbus Park	\$160,000
Christopher Lee Playground	\$492,000
Flaherty Park	\$100,000
Sweeney Playground	\$233,000
Independence Square	\$366,000
Lincoln Square	\$100,000
Columbus Park Field House	\$183,000
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Doherty Curran Playlot	\$332,000
Carmody Court	\$160,000
Condon School	\$110,000
Columbus Master Plan	\$25,000
Buckley Playground	\$150,000
TOTAL	\$2,561,000

2. OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

EQUITY AND INVESTMENT

With South Boston's extensive beach front factored in, the neighborhood has a total of just over 170 acres of publicly owned parks, playgrounds, squares and malls, which represents 5.4% of Boston's total of such space. This percentage share is the same as South Boston's share of Boston's total population. This statistic indicates that the neighborhood has an equitable share of public open space when compared to other neighborhoods. It has 5.5 acres per thousand persons which is the same as the city wide average.

The City of Boston's Parks Department has invested over 2.5 million dollars of improvements in the neighborhood's open space facilities through the five year capital plan [Table 1]. All major facilities, including the two with playgrounds, Christopher Lee and Columbus Park, were rehabilitated. A 350,000 dollar playlot was built at Columbus Park as the regions first fully handicapped accessible facility and a new Field House at Lee Playground. In addition to the above mentioned dollars, the City completely renovated the L Street Bathhouse through a multi-million dollar program.

ASSESSMENT

The Residential South Boston Neighborhood : The residents of South Boston are generally well served by diverse and easily accessible open space facilities. While Columbus Park and Christopher Lee Playground provide a full range of active recreation facilities, the Strandway and Castle Island area take care of passive recreation needs. Some of the best views of Boston harbor are from locations along the South Boston shoreline. However, the beaches are currently under utilized mainly due to a perception amongst residents that they are contaminated. At a smaller scale, the residential St. Vincent neighborhood and Andrews Square remain relatively under served with only a few pocket parks in the vicinity. The West Broadway housing development does not have easily accessible active recreation facilities.

The Industrial South Boston--Fort Point and South Boston Piers : This section of the neighborhood has almost no open spaces which can be used by the public, but has large tracts of vacant land. The gradual increase in the population of residents between 25 and 34, many of them couples with small families, is putting increasing pressure on existing open space facilities throughout South Boston. The Fort Point channel, abandoned and contaminated in the most part, has not been developed for public uses, with the exception of Museum Wharf. There is a lack of pedestrian access to the open space areas at EDIC's Marine Industrial Park.

3. SOUTH BOSTON : THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

The industrial Fort Point district and the residential areas of South Boston, while discreet sub-neighborhoods, provide the opportunity to establish a dynamic relationship in land uses, where the new public amenities associated with the proposed projects in the former area can be used by the growing population of the latter. The profusion of new, mainly transportation projects which are targeted for the Fort Point area in the coming years suggest open space opportunities which promise to alter the status quo dramatically. The currently inaccessible waterfront along the South Boston piers and channels could be made available to residents. New open spaces could be created in the area west of Dorchester Street and neighborhood beaches could be revitalized. The extension of the Red Line into South Boston would be critical to the success of these opportunities.

OPPORTUNITIES

Support the recommendations of the BRA's Fort Point District Plan to add a minimum of 45 new acres of open space; extend Harborwalk from Museum Wharf to the Fan Pier, Pier 4, and Commonwealth Pier; reuse the Old Northern Avenue Bridge as a pedestrian connection to downtown; create new tree lined boulevards; and to designate open space over the proposed Seaport Access Road.

Create a clean and accessible Fort Point Channel for public use in conjunction with the proposed Central Artery/Tunnel project.

In accordance with the EDIC's Marine Industrial Park master plan support open space development at Pier 10 and at the Reserve Channel. Provide neighborhood access to these facilities through the Summer Street connection to Dry Dock Avenue.

While protecting the St. Vincent neighborhood from traffic impacts of the proposed Haul Road through the Conrail right-of-way, evaluate the potential of an open space corridor on the air-rights.

Support the building of a public park in conjunction with the expansion of the World Trade Center. Stress the use of this facility by the Fort Point warehouse community.

Explore, through a tax title and vacant land recovery program the possibility of new park land west of F Street. Target any potential open space for use by the elderly.

Strengthen the public environment adjacent to the Childrens and Computer Museums by seeking enhanced pedestrian connections with the artist studios in the warehouse residential area.

Staff and coordinate the activities of the Joint Beach Commission established by the Mayor and Governor. Working with the MDC clean and revitalize through support facilities South Boston's extensive beach front.

Promote small boat docking for residential use at Castle Island to supplement existing yacht clubs.

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Examine the potential for building community gardens in South Boston.

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Implement a tree planting program for Columbus Park.

Continue to facilitate the creation of new and usable open space for the Old Colony, McCormick and West Broadway housing developments.

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THE SOUTH DORCHESTER NEIGHBORHOOD

HISTORY

The Town of Dorchester was settled and incorporated in 1630, encompassing present-day Dorchester, South Boston and Hyde Park. Although for nearly two hundred years Dorchester developed primarily as a farming community, its harborfront and riverfront hosted commerce, particularly at Lower Mills and near Commercial Point.

In the early 1800s Dorchester estates and summer houses were built as second homes for wealthy Bostonians, especially on the area's numerous hilltops. South Boston was annexed to the city in 1804. In 1868 Hyde Park incorporated separately. When Dorchester itself was annexed to Boston, in 1870, it was still a rural community of 12,000 residents. With new street car lines and municipal water lines supporting growth, the population climbed to 150,000 by 1920. However, between 1950 and 1980 it dropped by 23,000 people as families joined the suburban exodus.

PROFILE

Today the commercial nodes have undergone changes attributable to the disappearance of the streetcar lines and to shifts in population. Generally, the sections of the community near the waterfront have experienced more revitalization activity than the western segments of the area.

Lower Mills has experienced decline and revitalization spurred by conversion to apartments and condominiums of the Baker Chocolate mill complex. Condominium conversion has taken place around Ashmont, as well as renewed commercial activity. Changes in the Neponset area will focus on planned improvements to MDC land at the former Neponset Drive-In site and the Hallet Street dump site. Port Norfolk will continue to undergo transformations as its former industries are converted to housing and commercial development. Open space opportunities exist in proximity to the waterfront.

In western sectors, community revitalization efforts are ongoing. Fields Corner has already experienced substantial revitalization projects, stimulated by city investment. The Codman Square Community Development Corporation and the city continue to spur needed reinvestment at this important commercial node. In terms of park inventory, Codman Square, Meeting House Hill, and the Bowdoin Street areas are less green than the rest of the neighborhood.

For city planning purposes, South Dorchester extends from Meeting House Hill on the north to Lower Mills on the Neponset River. East to west it includes the areas between Dorchester Bay and the Midlands Branch Railroad alignment.

DEMOGRAPHICS / HOUSING

During the tripledecker era of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, South Dorchester attracted working-class families, mainly of Irish and European descent. Widely Catholic, the area was delineated by parishes. Since the suburban migration the population has stabilized and begun to rise. In 1990 it was 59,936. A large group of children under the age of 14 help account for the fact that 50% of the area's residents under the age of 35. The median income is \$18,600 compared to the city-wide average of \$19,250 (1985 figures). The ethnic population includes 51% whites, 35% African Americans, 7% Latinos and 7% Asians and others.

In South Dorchester 1-4 unit frame housing predominates. Besides the tripledecker form, there are embellished Victorians, large apartment buildings and ranch houses. Over 3/4 of the triple-deckers are owner occupied. Overall 35% of the housing units are owner-occupied, condos account for 1% of the units, and assisted housing for only 4%.

OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

Generally speaking South Dorchester's neighborhood parks are multi-purpose facilities, well-distributed throughout the community, which provide ball fields, ball courts and playground areas. There are some notable passive recreational areas in neighborhood parks as well, such as the wooded portion of Dorchester Park.

Recent park developments at Tenean Beach by the Metropolitan District Commission and at Rainbow Park have created two much-needed facilities on Dorchester Bay which are popular for strolling, sitting, picnics, children's play, swimming and fishing.

Reservations, urban wilds and community gardens comprise 82 acres of South Dorchester's 204 total acres of green space. Cedar Grove Cemetery and South Dorchester Burying Ground are not included in the above figures, but they are important for contributing green vistas to their surrounds.

EQUITY AND INVESTMENT

The 204 acres delineated above, largely under jurisdiction of the City of Boston and the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), give the area's residents an average of 3.4 acres of open space per 1,000 persons compared to a city-wide average of 5.5 acres. Stated another way, South Dorchester has 10.5% of the total city population and 6.4% of the city's open space. The Neponset River and the harbor do not figure as highly in the open space system as they could, nor does the Old Colony railroad right-of-way adjacent to them. When long-range, comprehensive plans by the city, state and community are implemented the amount of open space in South Dorchester will increase.

Under the the City of Boston Capital Plan of 1986-91, twelve neighborhood parks and playgrounds in South Dorchester received improvements totalling 3.96 million dollars (Table 1).

TABLE 1

BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH DORCHESTER 1987-1991

PARK	INVESTMENT
Town Field (Doherty-Gibson)	\$ 398,000
Hemenway	344,000
Roberts	459,000
Walsh	255,000
Byrne	26,000
Corbett	256,000
Garvey	408,000
Dorchester	811,000
Ronan	345,000
Wainwright (Cronin)	173,000
Martin	138,000
Ripley	345,000
Erie-Ellington	54,000
TOTAL	\$4,012,000

ASSESSMENT

South Dorchester's neighborhood parks are generally in excellent condition, and in some cases residents are apprehensive that park popularity will attract overuse. Still, the northwest part of South Dorchester lacks sufficient neighborhood park space. Coordination with schools and improvements to schoolyards as noted in Community Priorities below can mitigate this situation.

The proximity of McConnell Playground and Malibu Beach to Dorchester Bay provides the possibility of developing the Bay as an regional aquatic recreational center. Current MDC efforts will allow continuous waterfront access to Tenean Beach, potentially increasing the points of entry to the water's edge from the neighborhood.

The ecosystem of the Neponset River shoreline has notable and vulnerable environmental qualities. Sustained efforts of MDC and the community have been important in keeping out damaging uses. Future efforts must balance protection with public access and recreational opportunities, which will in turn reinforce the constituency for resource protection.

Many streets in South Dorchester are distinguished by their mature shade trees. However, there are gaps in the presence or health of street trees, such as along Dorchester Avenue.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Since the City of Boston has rehabilitated so many parks in the past five years, many neighborhood park issues relate to management and maintenance. Playground equipment safety and turf care are ongoing concerns along with general park care and security. There is interest in extending Park Partners programs, especially to provide more family activities.

Beyond the care of existing facilities there is great interest in expanding public open space resources and addressing environmental concerns. Besides the focus on the waterfront, there are opportunities to strengthen the green space system in South Dorchester with improved connections, particularly along the Old Colony Railroad line. Street tree planting and care is important. Quality open space is needed in housing complexes. Additional community gardens are desired.

Also see the sections of this document on the Harbor/Waterfront and North Dorchester.

OPPORTUNITIES

Address degradation of water quality and the environment along the harborfront. Participate in assessment, planning and implementation efforts by the Beach Commission, established by Mayor Flynn and Governor Weld, to provide swimmable beaches, including at Tenean Beach.

Continue and expand the Park Parkners program to help stabilize maintenance and security as well as to enhance park programming for special sports events, youth, and community activities.

Dorchester Bay: Increase and improve community access to the Bay. Support MDC's construction of a boardwalk along the Southeast Expressway embankment linking Tenean Beach to Savin Hill via Victory Road Park. Encourage MDC to provide continuous waterfront access and expanded parkland in their negotiations with Boston Gas. Develop commercial activities such as restaurants, boat rental and shops to compliment recreational activities at Tenean Beach. Support plans for a new MBTA station in conjunction with the Old Colony project, providing access to the waterfront.

Neponset River: Increase public access and open space facilities all along the Neponset River while protecting and stabilizing the ecosystem. Develop plans for: an Environmental Education Center; a recreational trail system with boardwalks, observation areas and docks; a path system to link Dorchester Park and Cedar Grove Cemetery to the river. Encourage the state DPW to restore a zone of suitable plant materials between the Southeast Expressway and the shoreline. Participate in the MDC's master plan project and MDC's efforts to clean up and develop parkland at the Hallet Street dump and Neponset River Drive-In sites. At suitable locations near shoreline recreational areas, explore revenue production for open space from concessions (such as boat rentals).

Port Norfolk: Prepare a plan for recreation, open space, increased greening and environmental improvements in Port Norfolk which also recognizes the historic character of the area. Explore with MDC the development of recreational piers, such as at Shaffer paper. Monitor and protect water quality and air quality.

Neponset Reservation: Support public acquisition of the Old Colony railroad line right-of-way to be developed as a public foot and bicycle path. Participate in this effort along with the City of Boston Conservation Commission, MBTA, MDC and the Boston Natural Areas Fund as a means to link the area's urban wilds and provide better community access to land along the Neponset River from Port Norfolk to Cedar Grove and Lower Mills.

Lower Mills: Focus on public access and development of passive and water-oriented recreational facilities. Support efforts of the state Department of Environmental Management to develop the Lower Mills Heritage State Park.

Dorchester Avenue: Support BRA Design Guidelines to improve the streetscape along Dorchester Avenue with a public/private partnership in regard to tree planting and maintenance.

Codman Square: Implement the city's planned improvements to the existing open space. Support efforts to enhance the grounds of the Courthouse. Take advantage of development projects to add green space to the area.

Meeting House Hill, Mt. Bowdoin: Increase the inventory of public green space. The campus of the Oliver Wendell Holmes School can be landscaped and maintained with student participation. The Richfield /Bellevue / Hamilton vacant parcels near the Holland Community School are being investigated by the city for green space development.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Continue communications between Parks Department and the community, and between agencies with open space jurisdiction.

Renovate Adams Street Square regarding street hockey courts and general park improvements.

Protect the Port Norfolk area from increased air and water pollution; there is particular concern about diesel trains on the Old Colony line.

Support MDC's planning efforts for recreational access all along the Neponset, from the Fowl Meadow Reservation to the mouth of the river.

Coordinate city/MDC jurisdiction on shoreline issues, for example re. Yacht Club expansion and potential beach pollution.

Coordinate city/MDC neighborhood park issues. Improve police response time at McMorrow Park, make fees affordable at the McMorrow ballfields for Murphy School use. Encourage MDC's capital investment to make improvements at Toohig Playground.

Support development of quality open space in public-assisted housing sites.

Plant living Christmas trees at suitable squares or traffic islands.

Provide more street hockey courts in parks.

Explore access to a football field for Murphy Community School.

Continue and expand Park Partner opportunities for events and for parks for which community members need support, such as at Port Norfolk Park.

Meet other neighborhood's needs for ball fields and courts to avoid over-use of South Dorchester's park facilities.

Support PZAC comments for enhancement of Dorchester Avenue.

Capitalize on waterfront assets. In conjunction with MDC and other agencies, develop plans for appropriate uses, develop fishing areas, boat launches and docking. Support Mass. Water Resource Authority and Boston Water and Sewer Commission efforts to eliminate combined sewerage outflows (CSOs).

Green-up the traffic island at Hancock and Pleasant streets.

Support schoolyard open space projects, including at Oliver Wendell Holmes School and Holland Community School.

Resolve leaching and run-off from Public Works salt pile at Bowdoin and Hancock streets.

Improve the Geneva Avenue Cliff area by providing a clean-up, installing signage, and by thinning out the undergrowth where appropriate. Enhance the use of this Urban Wild by establishing nature trails and environmental education programs.

Provide programmed events at Mt. Bowdoin Green, especially as the form of this open space lends itself to public concerts.

Improve the Erie-Ellington play area and increase safety by instituting a program of community events.

Examine the potential of creating a new open space facility on the vacant parcel between Washington Street and Harvard Avenue on Harvard Street.

In general, through a tax title search and vacant land recovery program explore the possibility of establishing new parkland in the western segments of the community.

Coordinate with existing Park Partner groups the organization of the Boston Youth Clean-Up Corps program to optimize resources in the neighborhood.

each other on Washington Street, Blackstone and Franklin Squares are the center pieces of the area's passive open spaces. Peters and Ramsey parks provide active recreation facilities. A number of community gardens are located near East Berkeley Street. The widening of Washington Street to accommodate a transit system has the potential to rapidly revitalize the corridor in the coming decade.

Medical facilities dominate the land uses between Washington and Albany Streets. The renovated Boston City Hospital complex and the essentially new Boston University Medical Center complex are interspersed with green areas to create a campus like environment. This section of the South End has developed light manufacturing uses as well, including a facility owned by Digital. The Cathedral housing complex, amongst the oldest in the city is one of the few existing residential areas between Washington and Albany Streets. Amongst the few active recreation facilities in this area, Rotch Playground, is also used for Boston's annual Latin festival.

DEMOGRAPHICS / HOUSING

South End's population continues to grow as well as remain diverse. Between 1980 and 1990 there was an increase of 6.5% in the population. Two distinct trends inform this growth of South End. First, almost all of that increase was taken up by persons between 25 and 45 years. Second, today 40% of the population lives in households in non-family situations. In the most part these trends are a result of the gradual gentrification of South End. In addition, the neighborhood actually experienced a decrease in the number of children between 5 and 17 years of age.

The number of persons of hispanic origin increased by a third during this period. By race, 45% of the population was white, 34% black and 12% was of Asian or Pacific Islands origin in 1990. These percentages indicate that South End is one of the most racially balanced neighborhoods in the city.

The housing stock in South End is expanding at a fast pace with the reclamation of old buildings, the conversion of single family dwellings to multi-unit condominiums and recently, an outbreak of new moderate income housing. 70% of all housing units are renter occupied and over the last decade the median household income has risen to be higher than the city wide average. The increasing availability of cultural and institutional facilities will continue to attract young professionals to the neighborhood in the future.

2. OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

EQUITY AND INVESTMENT

The tight residential fabric of South End has resulted in close to 30,000 persons being packed in a one square mile area, a density that is two and a half times the city average. Given the above, it is not surprising to find that while the neighborhood's share of the city's public open space is a mere 1%, it has close to a 5% share of Boston's population. There are 30 acres of publicly owned parks, playgrounds, squares and malls in the South End, or about one acre per thousand persons compared to the city average of 5 acres.

A total of over 3.5 million dollars were invested toward improvements to the open space system in South End by the City of Boston's Parks Department through the 1987-1992 five year program. More than a dozen facilities were effected through this effort including the neighborhoods large playgrounds : Carter, Ramsey, Rotch, and Peters. The Parks Department's also installed a new tot lot at the Cathedral Housing Development and invested maintenance and management resources toward supporting the operation of the neighborhood's large inventory of community gardens.

ASSESSMENT

South End's lack of open space in terms of acres is made up by a large inventory of facilities, typified by small residential squares, but also consisting of ballfields, courts and play lots. However, a detailed assessment of existing conditions indicates that facilities are somewhat unevenly distributed within the different localities of the neighborhood.

As South End's population of young adults continues to grow there will be increasing demand for permits by residents to utilize existing facilities. There is a critical need to identify new sites for active recreation uses as new public and private housing developments are planned and as the number of organized leagues and clubs increase. Currently, the four facilities over 2.5 acres in the neighborhood, Ramsey, Carter, Peters and Rotch playgrounds, are experiencing heavy use and maintenance work. The dramatic rise in the popularity of soccer has put additional pressure on these facilities.

The neighborhoods many small squares with passive green areas, benches and tot lots, while symbolic of South End's residential character, need additional restoration as well as better accessibility through side walk improvements and programming of small events. The absence of backyard space in the neighborhood highlights the need for such spaces. The same is true for open space facilities within the housing developments.

TABLE 1

**BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH END 1987-1992**

PARK	INVESTMENT
Carter Playground	\$678,000
Derby Ramsey Park	\$632,000
Rotch Playground	\$173,000
Peters Park (I)	\$148,000
Ringold Park	\$100,000
Worcester Square	\$400,000
Msg. Reynolds Playground	\$89,000
Hayes Park	\$600,000
O'Day Playground	\$288,000
Titus Sparrow Park	\$86,000
Union Square	\$100,000
Peters Park (II)	\$173,000
Ramsay Memorial	\$100,000
S.E. Library Park	\$150,000
TOTAL	\$3,717,000

3. SOUTH END : THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

South End's ethnic and social vitality is matched by a rich and diverse open space inventory. However, new opportunities need to be realized if the neighborhood's ever increasing residential densities have to be absorbed : The potential of major arterial streets as open space connectors must be utilized. New housing developments must create additional open space facilities to accommodate the new residents. Existing partnerships where discreet constituencies are matched to manage particular facilities must be strengthened.

OPPORTUNITIES

Develop Washington Street as a tree lined boulevard with well defined pedestrian and bicycle paths and with the creation of new open spaces along bordering vacant land. This should be done in coordination with the MBTA's proposed public transitway for Washington Street.

In coordination with the South End Neighborhood Housing Initiative (SENH I) ensure that all new developments provide facilities like tot lots and courts to accommodate new residents.

Develop residential scale plazas with seating and plantings adjacent to the Boston Center for the Arts and the Franklin Institute to enhance 'Berkeley Square' as a cultural center.

Parcel 18, Douglas Square and the Mass Pike air-rights are projects on the periphery of South End which might be used for new open space facilities by the neighborhood.

Explore the possibility of partnerships with commercial establishments in the area's light manufacturing district to utilize their facilities for neighborhood use. The ball diamond at the Digital site is a good example of such a partnership.

Support the conveyance of the ~~the~~ thirteen parcels totalling almost two acres of community gardens to the South End/ Open Space Trust to ensure their permanent protection.

Reinforce the South End's rich heritage of malls and squares and its English residential garden character by enhancing open spaces like Blackstone and Franklin Squares, Worcester Square, Chester Park, Union Park, Braddock and Concord Squares.

*So. End
Master plan*
conflicting uses
hr-f condition / one use
DOGS

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

SETS A

Continue to work with the PruPack in obtaining open space related linkage monies from the developers of the Prudential Center redevelopment plan.

Overall security at South End's parks to be improved by community support through resident policing.

Evaluate the conversion of the softball field to a baseball field at Carter Playground and reactivate plans to build a fieldhouse at the site of the previous building.

In collaboration with Villa Victoria community groups, increase family oriented programming at O'Day Playground to increase its use by residents of the housing development.

Extend all possible assistance to the MDC to create mechanisms that ensure the management and maintenance of the South West Corridor Park during budget crisis times.

In close cooperation with the Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association evaluate the Squares for minor repairs and support and improve existing community efforts to enforce the city's 'dog ordinance'. Repair fencing and the fountain at Concord Square.

In coordination with the BRA, carry out a feasibility analysis of the Castle Square housing development to gradually upgrade its interior courtyards and recreational spaces.

Seek a permanent, more accessible and bigger site for the annual Latin Festival and for all other large scale festivals, thereby reducing maintenance costs at the Rotch Playground.

Provide for organized sports which bring adults and children together for example by allocating time for family softball.

Improve the quality of the field at Peters Park to allow for greater use and reducing the pressure on other ball field facilities.

Aggressively pursue space to accommodate the growing popularity of soccer in the South End.

West Roxbury was annexed to Boston in 1888. It was originally part of the town of Roxbury, but had broken off to form its own town in 1831. In the year 1887, the town of West Roxbury, although having a population of 10,000, was still a part of the town of Roxbury. It was not until 1888 that it was separated from Roxbury and became an independent town. The original town of West Roxbury was located in the western part of the town of Roxbury, and was bounded on the north by the town of Boston, on the east by the town of Boston, on the south by the town of Boston, and on the west by the town of Boston.

WEST ROXBURY

West Roxbury is a town in the county of Suffolk, Massachusetts. It is located in the western part of the county, and is bounded on the north by the town of Boston, on the east by the town of Boston, on the south by the town of Boston, and on the west by the town of Boston.

1. History

West Roxbury was annexed to Boston in 1888. It was originally part of the town of Roxbury, but had broken off to form its own town in 1831. In the year 1887, the town of West Roxbury, although having a population of 10,000, was still a part of the town of Roxbury. It was not until 1888 that it was separated from Roxbury and became an independent town. The original town of West Roxbury was located in the western part of the town of Roxbury, and was bounded on the north by the town of Boston, on the east by the town of Boston, on the south by the town of Boston, and on the west by the town of Boston.

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HISTORY

West Roxbury was annexed to Boston in 1874. It was originally part of the town of Roxbury, but had broken off to form its own town government in 1851. In the same year, 1851, rail service extended to rural West Roxbury, allowing people to live in the new town but work in Boston. With the annexation to Boston, a second wave of housing construction began in the late 19th century. Yet, over three-quarters of West Roxbury's current housing units were built after 1920.

The original West Roxbury village formed along Centre Street near Spring Street. The Roxbury Latin School, the oldest private grammar school in America (1645) was located near the village. It still operates at the same location. Brook Farm, a 19th century utopian experimental community, which attracted many noted American intellectuals, was also located in West Roxbury.

DEMOGRAPHICS/HOUSING

During the eighties, West Roxbury continued the trend of population loss begun during the seventies. A 5.2% decrease in population occurred, from 31,33 in 1980 to 29,706 in 1990. West Roxbury has a generally older population: the median age is 35.1 years versus 28.8 years for Boston; the percentage of West Roxbury residents 55 years and older is 32 %, a far higher proportion than the 18% figure for Boston. Racially, West Roxbury is predominantly white. The share of West Roxbury households which are traditional couples and families is higher than for Boston (53% versus 36%, respectively). The median income of West Roxbury residents is higher than for all Boston residents: \$27,400 versus \$19,250, respectively (1985 BRA-PFD Household Survey). Only 8% of all residents were in poverty status, versus 21% for Boston as a whole. Unemployment was lower too: 4% versus 6% for Boston . Only 7% of West Roxbury households had no vehicles available to it, versus 39% for Boston households.

Fifty-five percent of the West Roxbury housing stock were owner-occupied units in 1-4 unit structures. Almost 25% were rentals in 1-4 unit structures. Publicly-owned and -assisted housing represented 9% of the housing units. Multi-family structures (5 or more units) represent 11% of the housing stock.

THE OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

EQUITY AND INVESTMENT

West Roxbury has a total of 110.16 acres in its open space inventory of parks, playgrounds, squares, and malls both under Parks Department and other public jurisdictions (see Inventory). This constitutes a 3.5% share of the city's total open space. West Roxbury's share of Boston's total population is 5.2%, comparable to many other neighborhoods. Seen another way, these figures translate into 3.71 acres per thousand persons, way above the city average of 5.55 acres.

The City of Boston's Parks Department invested close to \$0.6 million in improving its four major recreation facilities in West Roxbury: Hynes, Billings, Beethoven and Draper.

TABLE 1

BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN WEST ROXBURY, 1987-1991

PARK	INVESTMENT
Billings	86,000
Hynes	214,000
Draper	35,000
Beethoven School Playground	100,000

ASSESSMENT

West Roxbury is the most suburban of Boston's neighborhoods. Density decreases here, with the abundance of single-family homes and ample backyards. The neighborhood itself is defined by the open spaces surrounding it: to the east are the MDC's Stony Brook Reservation, Bellevue Hill, and West Roxbury Parkway; and to the west, the MDC's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Parkway, Brook Farm, and Havey Beach, and large private cemeteries, a municipally owned urban wild (Municipal Service Area), and the West Roxbury High School/Community Center.

But looking again at the open space figures discussed above, we see that the open space per capita figure is lower than for Boston, and that the majority of West Roxbury's total

acreage does not fulfill active recreation needs. In addition to Hynes, Billings, Beethoven, and Draper, only the West Roxbury High School/Community Center grounds provide active outdoor recreation facilities. Thanks to substantial backyard space, this deficit is not keenly felt, but pressure does exist to address unmet needs and user conflicts. The newfound popularity of soccer has lead to user conflicts with baseball/softball/little league field users, especially at Hynes.

Resources are available that could be used for additional opportunities for walking/hiking, bicycling, and nature appreciation activities. West Roxbury Parkway and VFW Parkway, both MDC facilities, provide exemplary thoroughfares. Centre Street/Spring Street, and Washington Street, should also be targeted for improved landscape treatments that will enhance the neighborhood's image and recreational value. These thoroughfares link the neighborhood to open space resources, such as cemeteries, urban wilds, and riverfront (the Charles), which can provide walking, bicycling, and nature appreciation opportunities. Another opportunity to explore is the abandoned railroad right-of-way between Spring Street and the Boston-Dedham line.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

West Roxbury enjoys many natural areas and such scenic MDC facilities as Veterans of Foreign Wars Parkway, West Roxbury Parkway, and Brook Farm. Two key city recreational facilities, Hynes and Billings, has undergone rehabilitation in the Rebuilding Boston capital campaign in the last five years. More such facilities will be addressed in the coming years. Improving access to urban wilds and the Charles River shorefront, and greening up major city thoroughfares, are two important targets for planning. Competing uses of existing facilities is also a long-term concern.

OPPORTUNITIES

- o Continue the rehabilitation of capital facilities, such as Beethoven, Draper, and the ballfields at Billings and Hynes.
- o Explore the Parks Department assuming management of the open space facilities at West Roxbury High School, upon completion of needed capital rehabilitation there.
- o Increase formalized waterfront access at such protected sites as Havey Beach (MDC) and Municipal Service Area (BDPW). Support MDC's effort to extend the Charles River Reservation along the Charles shoreline in the West Roxbury-Dedham area.
- o Explore, as with Forest Hills Cemetery, the use for passive recreation, such as Ranger tours and brochure-guided bicycle tours, of the private cemeteries northwest of the VFW Parkway.
- o Green-up and make bicycle-friendly such major thoroughfares as Washington Street, Centre Street, and Spring Street.
- o Work with BCC and BNAF to protect and make more accessible urban wilds in this neighborhood.
- o Support the efforts of the MDC at the Brook Farm site. This is a key link to this neighborhood's early history, and a landmark in this nation's history.
- o Investigate the potential for recreational use of the abandoned railroad right-of-way in the southern part of West Roxbury.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

- o There is a need for a full-time soccer facility in this area, home to the Parkway Youth Soccer, a 600+ co-ed youth league. There have been occurrences of confrontation and conflict over the use of baseball fields at Hynes despite possession and proper use of permits by the soccer league. A dedicated facility would be desirable. Suggested alternatives were the fields at West Roxbury High School, the open parcel at the intersection of VFW Parkway and Centre Street, and the ballfield at Our Lady of the Annunciation Church on the VFW Parkway.
- o Major capital rehabilitation is needed to the active recreation facilities, i.e., the fields and courts, at the West Roxbury High School.

THE SYSTEMS

BOSTON
OPEN SPACE



RAYMOND L. FLYNN, MAYOR

BOSTON HARBOR OPEN SPACE SYSTEM
A PLANNING FRAMEWORK

This planning framework has been developed as a guide to help guide the development and implementation of the Boston Harbor Open Space System. It is intended to provide a framework for the development of the system, and to provide a guide for the implementation of the system. The system is intended to provide a framework for the development of the system, and to provide a guide for the implementation of the system. The system is intended to provide a framework for the development of the system, and to provide a guide for the implementation of the system.

**BOSTON HARBOR OPEN SPACE SYSTEM
A PLANNING FRAMEWORK**

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BOSTON HARBOR OPEN SPACE SYSTEM A PLANNING FRAMEWORK

This planning framework has been designed to serve as a blueprint to guide the continuing revitalization of Boston harbor's open space system. In keeping with the intent of the city's current Open Space Plan, it recommends the consolidation of existing open space facilities and identifies opportunities to be realized by future programs and projects along the shoreline. The outline builds on and extends the work of various agencies and groups, especially the Boston Redevelopment Authority and the Metropolitan District Commission, to protect and provide public access to open space on the waterfront.

The concerns of the framework are driven by the larger vision of the Flynn Administration to equitably share the resources of the harbor for recreational as well as economic benefits for the city's residents. The ongoing Boston Harbor Cleanup Project will soon initiate a resurgence in water related activity which, with the provision of broad public access, will add a new dimension to the quality of life in Boston.

Boston's Municipal Harbor Plan, the product of a decade long community based effort by the City, articulates this vision through four comprehensive planning policies : (1) Access to opportunities on the harbor (2) growth that is appropriately designed and brings vitality (3) activating the waterfront through public, cultural and water dependent uses and (4) enhancing maritime activities.

DISTRICTS

As a first step toward adopting and implementing the above policies, this blueprint establishes districts which encompass neighborhood level open space systems. The intention is to emphasize the distinct local character which make the different areas unique in their own right. Existing shoreline features, neighborhood land uses, zoning boundaries and history of public use provide the context to delineate and establish themes which bind a particular district. The framework establishes the following:

1. Enhancing Olmsted's Vision : The South Boston Historic Shoreline
2. Linking Institutional Development : The Columbia Point Promenade
3. Creating Recreational Opportunities : The Dorchester Bay Area
4. Preserving the Irreplacable : The Neponset Conservation Park
5. Creating New Linkages : The Orient Heights Bay Area
6. Reclaiming the Harbor : The East Boston Waterfront
7. Opening and Accessing a Renewed District : Fort Point
8. The Boston Harbor Islands

9. Diversifying the Open Space Experience : Charlestown
10. Completing the Esplanade : The Charles River Crossing
11. Realization of the Public Realm : The North End / Downtown
12. Port Norfolk / Lower Mills / Neponset River

The range of these themes and corresponding districts assert the inherent character of an urban seashore : That it reflect the diversity of the city by creating a rich and varied choice of physical settings and cultural as well as recreational experiences for residents. However, hand in hand with diversity the urban context also means that various interests are competing for a piece of the harbor. Further community based planning will need to address the conflicts between neighborhood use and city-wide use, between encouraging private development and public access, and between protecting natural resources and seeking increased visitation to resource areas.

GUIDELINES

District associated themes underpin the open space recommendations outlined in the pages below. In addition, the following guidelines will serve as criteria to locate open space development so that a rich mix of harbor uses is ensured.

In each district:

Projects should maximize recreational potential with the creation of destination oriented facilities like recreational/cultural centers, restored beaches, bath houses, expanded sports facilities, and miniature amusement parks.

Projects should ensure the enhancement of environmental resources through the stabilization of unique ecosystems, with educational programs and through increased visitation opportunities. The city's youth should be especially targeted to enjoy and maintain these resources.

Proposed open space improvements should go hand-in-hand with housing and economic development. These improvements should encourage water related commercial activity including boat rentals, recreational marinas, and fishing with supporting cafes and restaurants. They should encourage increasing visitation to enable year-long activity.

LINKAGES

While each district will have its unique attractions derived from the above mix of activities, critical to open space investment opportunities will also be a system of linkages which ensure pedestrian, bicycle, automobile, public transportation and water shuttle access to the harbor. This issue will be addressed by an access plan which will view connections to inland facilities from the harborwalk spine to be as critical to harbor access as enlarging the harbor ferry network.

This would require:

Completion of Phase II of Harborwalk in the Fort Point Channel, Columbia Point, Dorchester, East Boston and Charlestown areas.

Links to Harborwalk from inland facilities like neighborhood parks and the Emerald Necklace system, especially through pedestrian paths and public transit.

A ferry network which links the Harbor Islands and existing downtown piers to docking areas in neighborhood locations on the Harborwalk.

MANAGEMENT

The implementation of the recommendations of this section require long term investment of capital and human resources which may be beyond the limited city and state means currently available. Clearly, a series of innovative institutional and financial measures will be required in the coming years. The formation of the Joint Commission on The Future of Boston Beaches by Mayor Flynn and Governor Weld is the first step in that direction.

The planning framework in establishing well defined district boundaries will facilitate the complex exercise of implementing potential projects and programs. Within the confines of a manageable area, ownership, jurisdiction and operations responsibilities will be fine tuned or, conversely, consolidated under an appropriate agency or entity in each district. A full matrix of management models will be considered, ranging from National Park Service ownership to a lease hold arrangement with a non-profit "Harbor Development Corporation", depending on the attributes of a particular district.

ENHANCING OLNSTED'S VISION : THE SOUTH BOSTON HISTORIC SHORELINE

An emphasis on the rich history of this section of Boston's shoreline can be the central theme to guide the next phase of its revitalization. Castle Island and Marine Park are the waterfront segments of Olmsted's vision. Fort Independence, recently improved by a multi-million dollar investment by the MDC, has a military history going back to the 17th century. Supporting the strength of this theme as a magnet is the diversity lend to it by the City improved facilities at the L Street Bath House and at Columbus Park.

Recommendations

The Castle Island area has been already developed by the MDC as a major attraction for the community. With an eye toward balancing local neighborhood and city-wide visitation interests existing facilities could be programmed for enhanced use : Castle Island to be established as a museum and historic interpretative center and Pleasure Bay developed for water based sports like swimming.

MDC's existing fishing pier could attract additional use with the building of a small scale fish cleaning facility.

In coordination with the expansion of Kelly's Landing, public incentives could be offered to the adjacent private yacht clubs to increase their membership.

Examine with the MDC the feasibility of reusing their Bath House at Carson Beach, perhaps with a water pool and restaurant, and with trolley shuttle connections to the JFK 'T' station.

Provide designated pedestrian crossings from Columbus Park to the Strandway.

Seek to reduce regional traffic at Day Boulevard.

Emphasize the development of Columbia Road and Summer Street as tree lined thoroughfares to provide inland access links.

Provide designated pedestrian paths from Telegraph Hill and Independence Square to the shoreline.

CREATING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: THE DORCHESTER BAY AREA

The proximity of McConnell Playground and Malibu Beach to Dorchester Yacht Club Bay provides the possibility of developing that enclosed water body as a regional aquatic park with a recreational emphasis. Further, current MDC planning and implementation efforts will finally provide continuous pedestrian access from the Yacht Club area to Tenean Beach, potentially increasing the points of entry from neighborhood streets to the water's edge and to its recreational facilities.

Recommendations :

Utilizing Dorchester Yacht Club Bay's protected waters, develop the area as an Aquatic Park for passive and active water-oriented recreation.

The MDC has developed beaches and supporting facilities at Malibu and Tenean Beaches. Existing bath houses and pavilions could be expanded, a water pool built, and a dinghy dock and possible boat rental provided at Tenean Beach.

Support efforts to improve water quality in Dorchester Bay.

Integrate McConnell Park with Malibu Beach and Dorchester Yacht Club Bay by landscaped lawns and paths.

Support MDC's current capital program to complete Harborwalk by linking Tenean Beach to Savin Hill by the construction of a boardwalk along the SE Expressway embankment to Victory Road Park.

Recommend to MDC that in their negotiations with Boston Gas they expand access as well as passive recreational opportunities in the plans to dismantle one of the gas tanks. They could also enhance access from Morrissey Boulevard to Victory Road abutting the Freeport Street off-ramp.

Support current plans to provide a new 'T' station in conjunction with the Old Colony project near the proposed MBTA bridge with connections to a pier facility.

With sidewalk improvements and a tree planting program designate pedestrian paths from Savin Hill Park to Malibu Beach and the marsh areas.

Expand public access from McConnell Park along the periphery of the expressway to connect the public beach at Clam Point via a boardwalk.

PRESERVING THE IRREPLACABLE : THE NEPONSET CONSERVATION PARK

The Neponset shoreline has a unique ecosystem with rare and vulnerable environmental qualities. The sustained efforts of the MDC and community groups has kept out undesirable uses from the area. While pressing for this system's continuing protection these recommendations also emphasize the need for developing a greater diversity in park uses to stabilize the area. Carefully sited, intensive recreation uses would attract visitors, exposing a larger number of city residents to the Neponset's natural attributes.

Recommendations :

Implement environmental management measures to be taken to preserve and stabilize the ecosystem of this unique waterfront area.

Support the MDC's, the City's Environment Department's and community efforts to build the CONRAIL rail road right of way from Port Norfolk to Central Avenue as a pedestrian / bicycle path to link the entire Neponset shoreline.

On an accessible and well connected site develop as a permanent facility an Environmental Education and Nature Center.

Support the MDC in the development of the Hallet Street Dump and Drive-in sites for programmed and intensive recreational uses. Recommend that they explore the potential for concessions.

Designate a trail system with board walks, nature observation areas, and decks for rafts and canoes.

Develop a path from Dorchester Park along Cedar Grove Cemetery to the Neponset shoreline.

With a new station at the Neponset publicize the use of the Ashmont Mattapan line for inland links to the Dorchester neighborhood from the shoreline.

Recommend that the state DPW establish a strong planting buffer between the Southeast Expressway and the marsh.

Seek continued improvements in water quality.

CREATING NEW LINKAGES : ORIENT HEIGHTS BAY PARK

With the linking of Belle Isle Marsh and Wood Island Bay Marsh to the Orient Heights beach area complementing open space experiences can become accessible to the neighborhood as a single system. These new connections would open up new opportunities in the development of the bay despite the continuing disturbance from the airport.

Recommendations :

Recommend to the MDC to expand the Orient Heights Recreation Center in conjunction with the Porazzo Rink complex to establish the area as a node of activity.

Extend the beach through a 'harborwalk' path past the Orient Heights Yacht Club to the Bayswater Street urban wild and finally to Belle Isle Marsh.

Provide access to Wood Island Bay Marsh from the beach through Coleridge Street and the MBTA Extension urban wild.

At both Wood Island Bay and Belle Isle marshes examine the viability of expanding the trail system with designated walkways, board walks and nature observation areas or alternatively, encourage the MDC's and community based canoeing programs.

Develop a plan with the MDC to build a water pool and playground at the western edge of Orient Heights beach and improve existing recreational facilities.

Provide links to and program the active recreation facilities at Noyes Playground.

At the end of Neptune Street, at the concrete break water edge, construct a pavilion with Olmsted references.

Expand the Orient Heights Yacht Club to provide a docking pier.

LINKING INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT : THE COLUMBIA POINT PROMENADE

Columbia Point has a rich mix of rapidly growing institutional and residential uses. A local open space system which takes advantage of the water's edge as well as links these developments can transform the Columbia Point waterfront into a thriving promenade. MDC's current harbor walk construction at Harbor Point is the first step in that direction.

Recommendations :

Support the MDC's efforts to develop a landscaped park at the Bayside Expo site to complete harborwalk and link Columbus Park to Columbia Point. .

Recommend to the MDC that as an extension to their current Harborpoint Park construction they improve Mothers Rest as a public facility.

Establish Harborwalk connection between Harborpoint and Kennedy Library.

In coordination with the Boston Water and Sewer Commission, support the planning to develop a family park, Harborwalk, and other facilities adjacent to the Calf Pasture urban wild.

Reuse the Pump House for cultural activities, conference center and supporting retail and student facilities.

Encourage plans to develop the docking piers at the JFK Library for public boats.

Recommend bus loops between the JFK Library and Castle Island via the JFK 'T' station.

RECLAIMING THE HARBOR : THE EAST BOSTON WATERFRONT

Similar to the state of North End's waterfront five years ago, East Boston currently has a number of piers between LoPresti and Porzio Parks which are currently underutilized. These offer an opportunity to reclaim the waterfront for neighborhood use. If the proposed projects for the piers are coordinated a multi-dimensional promenade consisting of active and passive recreation, maritime industry and housing uses can be created.

Recommendations

The Parks Department's Porzio and LoPresti parks, both with recent multi-million dollar investments, can serve as anchors to a harborwalk extending from Jeffries Point to the Maverick area. The first segment which connects the airport shuttle docking area to Porzio has been completed by Massport.

Support Massport's project to develop a six acre park at Pier 4 in conjunction with a Lobster Facility on Pier 5. Advocate inter-agency involvement in design development of the proposed 10 acre park on Pier 3. Support the Citizens Advisory Committee appointed to oversee the project. Seek to link 'Golden Stairs' and 'Rockies' open spaces to the pier developments.

Clean-up publicly owned parcels adjacent to the Jeffries Point Yacht Club and make land available for club expansion in return for public access paths.

Renovate Lewis Mall as a major landscaped pedestrian connection from the Maverick Square neighborhood to the waterfront. Coordinate this with the MBTA's current reconstruction of the T station at the square.

Support the BRA's efforts to reactivate the Clippership Wharf project, given the potential of a public water shuttle dock close to rapid transit.

Establish connections between the community and the proposed 12 acre park at the 'Park and Fly' parking lot as well as the East Boston Stadium.

Establish public access along the water's edge at Hodge Boiler Works through acquisition/easement or the like, providing connections to Lo Presti Park with proposed Clippership Wharf development.

REALIZATION OF THE PUBLIC REALM: THE NORTH END / DOWNTOWN

The provision of public access and a diversified public open space system has nearly been completed along the North End/Downtown waterfront. Recent accomplishments such as the Rose Kennedy Garden, the rehabilitation of Langone Park and Puopolo Playground, and the completion of Long Wharf Phase I offer nearby residents active and passive recreational opportunities. In addition, private developments will significantly add to the neighborhood's open space. A continuation of these and related open space plans is necessary to regain the waterfront for the public's use and enjoyment.

Recommendations

Extend Harborwalk along the water side of Puopolo Playground, linking it to the U.S. Coast Guard's Walk-to-the-Sea.

Complete the Long Wharf improvements, including additional open space, harborwalk, dockage for commercial vessels and a public landing.

Continue the development and provision of community programs such as sailing, where appropriate.

Provide piers programmed for docking, where appropriate.

Unify the planned/completed pedestrian pathways and open spaces adjoining the waterfront with the planned pedestrian links and open spaces that result as a part of the depression of the Central Artery.

COMPLETING THE ESPLANADE: THE CHARLES RIVER CROSSING

The Charles River shore from Monsignor O'Brien Highway to the North Washington Street Bridge is the uncompleted segment of parkland between the Esplanade and the North End district of Harbor Park. Historically, it is an area of intense transportation use: in the area the Orange Line passes under the river; the locks provide passage on the river; and the O'Brien Highway bridges pass over all of this. In the coming years, the Central Artery Project will create a new highway crossing, a new water transit stop, and a new configuration for Leverett Circle. The new Boston Garden project will initiate more intense land uses adjoining this area. The Central Artery Project is providing substantial funding for parkland construction on both sides of the river. A parkland design in the Crossing area must integrate these transportation and development plans with an open space system which completes the parkland uses on the river's edge.

Recommendations :

Support the Charles River Crossing Advisory Committee established to advise the Central Artery Project on design of parkland in the crossing area.

Provide program requirements for a water transit stop at Lovejoy Wharf which will meet the needs of a full inner harbor water transit system.

Integrate the parkland plans with the city's downtown-wide commuter bicycle program.

Identify, protect, and enhance corridors of pedestrian access from the Bulfinch Triangle and West End areas to the expanded parkland and across the river to Charlestown.

DIVERSIFYING THE OPEN SPACE EXPERIENCE: CHARLESTOWN

Charlestown's waterfront from the Little Mystic Channel to the Paul Revere Landing Park affords unique opportunities for creating a variety of open space and recreational uses on both land and water. Rich in history, skirting a densely populated neighborhood, in close proximity to Downtown Boston and with links to the Charles River Basin Open Space System, this area of Boston's waterfront has the potential of providing its open space users a diverse and enriching outdoor experience.

Recommendations :

Realize the potential of the Little Mystic Channel as a unique open space resource - renovate the existing Harborwalk, construct the missing segments of Harborwalk, create a large public open space at end of the Channel for passive and active recreation, create opportunities for water-based recreation.

Support plans to provide a Harborwalk segment on the northern edge of the Channel in conjunction with an overflow parking area for the new Aquarium at the Navy Yard.

Support plans, as outlined in the Charlestown Navy Yard Master Plan, to create within the Yard a public open space network that will reinforce the unique historical character of the Navy Yard System. These plans include:

- A continuous Harborwalk along the water's edge extending from the Little Mystic Channel to the National Historical Park.
- Tree-lined streetscape with appropriately designed lighting, seating, and paving; pedestrian corridors on Second Avenue and Flirtation Walk.
- Major new open spaces at Yard's End and improvements to Shipyard Park.
- Court yards and plazas containing fine paving materials, seating, lighting, and plantings.
- Extension of Pier 3 for public recreation, with docking and shelter pavilions adaptable to community uses.
- Water shuttle terminal at Yard's End for direct access to Downtown Boston.

Coordinate with the BRA in the planning of the CANA open space network. These consist of passive and active recreational spaces connected to Harborwalk at the water's edge.

Support the incorporation of a Harborwalk on Tudor Wharf in order to complete Charlestown's Harborwalk from the Little Mystic Channel to Paul Revere Landing.

Support plans to connect the Harborwalk east of the Charlestown Bridge with the Charles River Basin Open Space System west of the Charlestown Bridge via pedestrian connections under and on the bridge.

THE BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS

The Boston Harbor Islands, isolated due to their natural setting, are one of the most fragile, vulnerable and disassociated resources in Boston's open space system. However, in their current form they are also essentially one dimensional--their attraction is mainly as a natural resource and attracts a limited range of visitor groups. Diverse uses, focussed on recreational developments, need to be added. Quality of life would be positively impacted if issues related to maintenance, supervisory personnel and maintenance are addressed.

Recommendations

In keeping with DEM's 1986 Harbor Islands State Park Master Plan support intensive use of Georges, Spectacle, Peddocks and Long Islands; moderate use of Bumpkin, Gallops, Grape and Lovells; and low visitation for the Brewster group, Rainsford, and Slate.

Provide affordable public access to the first two groups of islands, with an emphasis on shuttle departures from neighborhood locations.

Document and map all conservation lands on the islands, specify those to be of critical environmental concern, and develop a natural resource protection plan for their permanent maintenance.

In the long term relieve pressure on Georges Island as the main terminal by establishing the rebuilt Spectacle as an additional ferry base.

Provide management facilities and visitor information centers at Spectacle and Long, to add to those at Georges and Gallop islands.

Working with the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc., other advocacy groups, and the state, develop a program to provide year-round caretakers on all islands with structures.

Support the Spectacle Island Advisory Committee appointed for the Central Artery Project in reconstructing the island as a major recreational site and as a natural resource for Boston.

Support the sequenced development as proposed in the Long Island Master Plan. Protection from the existing hazards in preparation for the future development of park infrastructure, should be the focus over the next five years.

Harbor Islands continued

The DEM Master Plan study of 1986, should be reevaluated for current relevance. Programmatic uses for existing buildings and other structures, for open space recreational uses, and for educational and scientific uses should be determined by a public participation process.

To improve the current use of the islands educate visitors as to the the importance of a pack-it-in, pack-it-out trash policy, conservation of natural resources and boating safety. Discourage vandalism through signage and a program of law enforcement developed and implemented with the help of citizen volunteers.

Provide a sufficient number of toilet facilities on Peddocks, Lovell's, Spectacle, Long and George's islands to accommodate estimated visitors and staff. Limit the other islands to pit toilets. Initiate a study of innovative toilet technology.

Community gardens are vital elements of our urban neighborhoods, and unique urban landscapes. They are primarily for food production, but also serve as places for education and social interaction. They are places where people can learn about gardening and healthy eating, and where they can share their produce with their families and friends.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Community gardens are a vital part of our urban landscape. They are places where people can grow their own food, learn about gardening, and share their produce with their families and friends. They are also places where people can learn about healthy eating and nutrition. Community gardens are a great way to improve the health of our communities and to make our neighborhoods more vibrant and livable.

History and Development

Community gardens have a long history in the United States. They were first developed in the early 20th century as a way for people to grow their own food and to share it with their families and friends. Over the years, community gardens have become an important part of many urban neighborhoods, and they continue to grow in popularity today.

The first community garden in the United States was established in 1915 in New York City. It was called the "Victory Garden" and was created during World War I as a way for people to grow their own food and to share it with their families and friends. Since then, community gardens have become an important part of many urban neighborhoods, and they continue to grow in popularity today.

Community gardens are vital elements of Boston's neighborhoods, and unique among Boston's open space types. While they are primarily food producing land, community gardens have become important social and educational centers for gardeners and their families, while also enhancing Boston's open space network.

In the City of Boston, there are over 120 community gardens which range in size from the Boston State Hospital lands and Richard Parker Victory Gardens with over 400 plots each to much smaller gardens developed on abandoned house lots with as few as 10 plots. In these gardens, over 3,000 families produce over \$1 million of food annually, thus contributing significantly to the incomes of low to moderate income families. Gardens are located in almost every city neighborhood and are managed by homeless shelters, drug and rehabilitation centers, housing projects, senior centers, day care centers, while the vast number of gardens are located on abandoned or undeveloped lots. Community gardens also have come to reflect the city's diverse ethnic constitution with significant representation of Chinese, Caribbean, African-American, and Hispanic populations and foodstuff. *Q. D. 2*

History and Development

Boston has one of the oldest and largest community gardening systems in the country. In the 1890s, with the onset of an economic depression, vacant lots and city land were set aside for food production by individuals. During World War I, community gardening surfaced again in Boston as "Victory Gardens", complementing a nation-wide war effort to produce food for shipment abroad. Although limited to the term of the war, community gardening became popular again during world war II for domestic and foreign shipment.

The Richard Parker Fenway Victory Garden was the only garden to survive the War period in Boston after much advocacy and political wrangling for its preservation. However, in the 1970s community gardens emerged as a phoenix from vacant house lots created by arson, abandonment and demolition. Complementing these physical locations was aggressive grassroots efforts in community development and self help, and state legislation which supported the establishment of community gardens. City efforts such as the Revival Program helped support the establishment of 30 community gardens in Boston in the mid 1970s, and in 1976, Boston Urban Gardeners (BUG) was founded by the coalition of gardening groups and volunteers who had come together as a result of the community empowerment that had been encouraged. Along with the dramatic increase in community garden establishment came the need for efficient means of obtaining supplies and support such as water and soil, as did the issue of land permanency. With assistance from the Suffolk County Extension Services, the Boston Natural Areas Fund which purchased most of the Revival Gardens from the City of Boston, and public agencies community gardening emerged from the 1970s as a solid community-based system.

In the 1980s, community gardens faced important battles for property rights in a climate of aggressive development and re-zoning. However, successes were found in the establishment and formalization of the South End Land Trust between 1989 and 1990. The Land Trust was formed with the assistance of the Trust for Public Land to permanently protect eight parcels of open space owned by the Boston Redevelopment Authority, including 5 community gardens. Since its establishment, the Berkeley Street Community Garden has been added to the inventory of permanently protected space.

Construction of community gardens and broadened support of community gardens was also augmented. Boston Urban Gardeners and the Southwest Corridor Community Farm merged as Boston Urban Gardeners at the Community Farm. Along with the Boston Natural Areas Fund, both agencies were instrumental in building new community gardens and assisting with their maintenance.

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department began its community garden initiative in 1989 supporting gardens with maintenance assistance, and the Boston Public Facilities Department has assisted community gardens with funding support through its Grassroots program. Within the context of the revitalization of public open space, the community gardens have also been beneficiaries of the Boston Foundation's Fund for Parks and Open Spaces small grants program.

The Community Garden Support Committee was assembled in 1989 as a representative group of organizations and agencies which deliver services and support to community gardens in the city. Assembled by the Suffolk County Extension Service, the Committee provides a forum in which to discuss system-wide issues.

Ownership, Investment and Support

As a result of the assembling of different pieces of property over several decades for community gardening, the land upon which community gardens are located is owned by a variety of non profit, private and public entities. The following summary of agencies and organizations which are involved in community garden support defines their roles and responsibilities in order to offer a matrix of service delivery.

Public Ownership and Support

The City of Boston owns many community garden properties via the Boston Redevelopment Authority, the Boston School Department, the Real Property Department and the Parks and Recreation Department.

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department owns four community gardens within public parks. The Department has a community garden liason who manages maintenance requests and outreach to gardens. Outreach includes working with individual garden coordinators and other community garden service providers to support Spring and Fall garden clean-ups with trash bags, tools, woodchips, trash pick up,

and coordination of volunteer support. Additionally, the Parks Department's greenhouses provide annuals for garden borders and summer youth crew assistance for special projects through the Boston Youth Clean-Up Corps. As of 1991, a tool bank is available at the Back Bay Maintenance Yard to community gardeners who can sign out tools for community garden clean-ups.

Boston Housing Authority property provides community gardening opportunities at more than ten of its location city-wide. In 1991, the Parks Department hired Boston Urban Gardeners at the Community Farm to train Boston Housing Authority groundskeepers in horticultural skills and management. The two-phase program successfully trained eleven employees at six housing developments.

The City of Boston Public Facilities Department administers the Grassroots Program which provides community development assistance in empty lots and garden land development through the use of Federal Community Development Block Grants. PFD also manages, in conjunction with other public and private agencies the Green on Blue program which aims to offer city lots to non profits for community uses including gardening.

The State of Massachusetts owns community garden land in Boston under the Metropolitan Districts Commission which has community gardens within its metropolitan parks, and the Commonwealth Department of Mental Health which has jurisdiction over the community garden lands located at Boston State Hospital.

Private and Non-Profit Ownership and Support

City-wide private non-profit entities which have worked aggressively to secure the land upon which gardens have developed and have constructed gardens in conjunction with individuals and community groups include the Boston Natural Areas Fund and Boston Urban Gardeners at the Community Farm.

Boston Urban Gardeners at the Community Farm provides assistance in development and improvements, maintenance, training and technical information to community gardens city wide. It also manages its own garden and educational facility in Jamaica Plain, and owns several other community gardens.

Boston Natural Areas Fund was initially established to protect and preserve thw Urban Wilds that were identified by the Boston Redevelopment Authority in 1976. However, BNAF has steadily increased its involvement in community gardens through acquisition of land, i.e. the "Revival" gardens, and protection of city open space for community gardens as part of the larger open space system. BNAF has recently worked with community organizations to establish new gardens in blighted areas in conjunction with recreational facilities such as tot lots. Like BUG at the Farm, BNAF also provides technical assistance and training to gardeners and is currently working to establish a community garden center in the Highland Park area of Roxbury.

The Community Garden Support Committee is an assembly of public and private organizations and associations which offer planning, maintenance, and other support to community gardens individually and as a network. The University of Massachusetts Extension Services facilitates the gathering of representatives who work to resolve system-wide issues such as service delivery, water systems, and compost/recycling.

The Next Five Years

Since the 1960s community gardens have emerged as important and permanent elements of Boston's open space system. Today gardens are also in demand throughout the city's neighborhoods, although stability and permanency remain an issue for many established sites. Recommendations for community gardens for the City of Boston should respect the delicate balance which community gardens demand between public and private support and self sufficiency and responsibility. Thus physical improvements to community gardens should ultimately be durable and manageable while policies should be realistically appropriate to gardeners and their management structure.

The following recommendations are divided categorically into four areas of focus: 1) Maintenance, Management and Support, 2) Protection And Acquisition, 3) Programming, Education, Outreach and Training, and 4) Resource Development. They are intended to specifically and generally guide cooperative efforts of city, state, community and private non-profit support of community gardens.

Maintenance, Management and Support

Although most maintenance and operations within gardens are managed by the gardeners within a particular site, maintenance assistance is provided primarily by the Boston Parks Department and Boston Urban Gardeners. The Parks Department is a relatively new player within the community garden network, but it has the city-wide outreach and maintenance capacity for providing services to properties outside those directly under its jurisdiction.

Recommendations

Current Parks Department assistance in maintenance to community gardens should be maintained and augmented. The Department currently offers trash pick up regularly during summer months to community gardeners, while also making materials such as woodchips and flowers available to gardeners as well as to community garden organizations such as BUG and BNAF.

Garden recycling should be addressed whether by composting within individual gardens or by a system-wide removal process.

The toolbank which has been recently created by the Parks Department should be maintained and expanded through input and assistance from

the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, BNAF and BUG, and publicized to gardeners.

The Community Garden Support Committee should be strengthened to be the advisory and advocacy committee to the Parks Department and other municipal and other agencies. As with the current Community Garden Water Task Force assembled by the City of Boston Environment Department, the Support Committee is the resource for network-wide representation on technical matters pertaining to the gardens.

The Parks Department supports BNAF and BUG at the Farm and community groups and non profits in their 100 year plan for permanence in management and maintenance.

Community gardens should be inventoried to assess needed improvements to infrastructure, special projects, design and maintenance. Methods for inventory should be undertaken with input and design from the Community Garden Support Committee membership.

Protection and Acquisition

While great strides have been made to secure established community garden land in Boston through purchase by the Boston Natural Areas Fund and the establishment of the South End Land Trust, more community gardens owned by the City of Boston and agencies such as the Boston Redevelopment Authority remain unprotected. Additionally, the demand for community garden space has increased, forcing garden support entities to examine means of satisfying this need through acquisition and garden construction.

Recommendations

Ownership of ~~BRA~~ and City of Boston-owned community garden open space should be transferred to private non-profit entities such as the South End Land Trust, the Dorchester Gardenlands Preserve, BNAF, or possibly the Boston Parks Department.

Initiate a city-wide program to protect publicly-owned community gardens by designating them as Open Space, using existing BRA zoning legislation. Private entities should be encouraged to seek easements for protection of privately owned garden land.

Potential community garden land should be included in an overall acquisition policy for the City of Boston's open space system, and recommendations for target neighborhoods, based on a demonstrated community need, presented to the Parks Department by BNAF and BUG.

Guidelines for new community gardens should be developed, including delineation of community process and design through education of constituencies as to options and in use of space i.e. pathways locations. These should guide construction of new gardens as well as renovation and improvement to existing gardens.

The Boston Natural Areas Fund's use of recreational areas adjacent to the community gardens as part of new property development provides a model for new community gardens on vacant land.

Partnerships between housing advocates and open space/community garden advocates are encouraged as a means of addressing disparity between construction of housing and garden space on available open space. Particularly densely built areas such as the South End as well as Dorchester and Roxbury. Community Development Corporations will figure prominently in such dialogue.

Efforts such as the PFD's Green on Blue Hill Avenue provide models for use of abundant vacant lots in neighborhood open space. New community gardens created through this program should abide by community garden development criteria, and by standard rules for managing and governing community gardens city-wide.

Programming, Education, Outreach and Training

Community gardens by nature lend themselves to community programming, outreach and education in order to assist gardeners of all ages in a mutual quest to grow food, beautify neighborhoods through site improvement, and manage gardens equitably. Gardens and urban farming provide opportunity for vocational training and education in horticulture and better farming as well as leisurely recreation in festivals, and in city-wide or garden-wide events and activities.

Recommendations

The Community Garden Support Committee should be a clearing house for new and ongoing programs for best coordination and awareness of programs in individual gardens or city-wide efforts

In training the City of Boston supports Boston Urban Gardeners at the Community Farm and the Boston Natural Areas Fund in their endeavors to train gardeners through existing outreach and facilities and the proposed community garden center at Highland Park.

Training programs for youth and adults can complement those undertaken by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and the Parks Department's efforts to train Boston Housing Authority grounds personnel. The Boston Youth Clean-Up Corp and similar city initiatives in youth involvement in open space improvement provides an opportunity to more specially train young people in horticulture and gardening support. Young gardener mentor programs could be developed in individual gardens in order to training young people in urban farming.

The Boston Parks Department Ranger Program should use community gardens as facilities for environmental education and instruction for young people and adults, complementing efforts undertaken by other agencies.

The Parks Department, in conjunction with all members of the Community Garden Support Committee, will undertake to plan and implement an annual urban gardening fair as a means of strengthening the network of community gardens by highlighting different gardening ideas, ethnic cultures, and building camaraderie among gardeners.

Resource Development

Financial aid and partnerships for community gardens are much-needed support mechanisms in undertaking substantial improvements, programs, small projects and general garden support. While community gardening involves annual dues to support each garden's management, larger projects and garden support often comes from a variety of public and private sources through such agencies as BNAF and BUG at the Farm.

The Boston Foundation's Fund for Parks and Open Spaces Small Grants Program offers one-time grants of up to \$3,000 for specific projects from community groups which benefit open space improvement. The City of Boston Public Facilities Department manages the Grassroots Program on behalf of the City of Boston. Using Federal Community Development Block Grant funding, the Grassroots Program can support substantial improvement and development of open space, and is particularly useful for the construction of new community gardens.

Recommendations

The Fund for Parks and Open Spaces Program will be more effective if the funding level is augmented, whether by multi-year/phase grants or augmented funding levels. The Grassroots Program will better serve substantial revitalization of open space facilities through a broadened multi-year grant system which is more comprehensive.

More generally, public/private partnerships and private financial support should be developed by the larger agencies and organizations to assist community garden programs, vocational training efforts, supplies and special initiatives.

A fundraising plan to encompass mutual efforts should be developed by the Community Garden Support Committee to support system-wide projects and programs.

EMERALD NECKLACE PARKS

EMERALD NECKLACE PARKS

OVERVIEW

The 1,000 acre Emerald Necklace is among the nation's finest urban green space systems. In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, when the concept of public parks took hold in American cities to provide healthful relief from urbanization and its ills such as pollution, noise and overcrowding, the Necklace provided a model park system. Built virtually complete according to plan, the Necklace gave the pedestrian, equestrian or carriage rider an hour or a day's recreation without leaving Boston. Its numerous and varied charms included places for quiet contemplation, for enjoyment of scenery, and for active play. Today Necklace parks function the same way for families and individuals who walk, run, bicycle, play ball, use tot lots, picnic, golf, cross country ski, skate, toss a frisbee, fly a kite, visit the zoo, rent a boat, or just sit.

Serving all Bostonians, regardless of recreational interest, economic status or cultural identity, has always been the function of the Emerald Necklace. In 1870, five years before the first major plan was drawn, Frederick Law Olmsted, its designer, wrote:

"We want a ground to which people may easily go after their day's work is done, and where they may stroll for an hour seeing, hearing and feeling nothing of the bustle and jar of the streets.... We want, especially, the greatest possible contrast with the restraining and confining conditions which compel us to walk circumspectly, watchfully, jealously, which compel us to look closely upon others without sympathy."

What many call the genius of F.L. Olmsted is the enduring nature of his vision, the success with which his parks still address aesthetic, recreational and social needs. Today's Emerald Necklace directly serves eight of Boston's sixteen neighborhoods with active and passive open space facilities. For greater metropolitan Boston, the Necklace is an important regional recreational destination. Open space professionals and advocates come from across the country and around the globe to experience this revered model for park design.

Along the Riverway the ravine, meadows and wooded embankments appear as a preserved piece of early New England landscape. In fact, the topography was massively reshaped to solve major drainage and sewerage problems and its vegetation was carefully

selected to heighten scenic enjoyment. The Muddy River basin still provide storm water management. Although Olmsted's rich plant palette has been diminished by age, natural selection, and successive changes in landscape fashions and levels of care, the Olmsted-designed parks today are very much a scenic environment and a wildlife habitat.

A dramatic change from the early days of the Emerald Necklace concerns the parkways, designed originally as carriage drives in the parks. Widened for automobile commuter traffic they now appear detached from the parks and contribute noise, air and water pollution along with the benefits of access.

All parks and parkways within the Necklace are designated Boston Landmarks with the exception of Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. All are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Boston Common, the Public Garden and Arnold Arboretum are additionally designated as National Historic Landmarks, the highest tier of the National Register.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

The Emerald Necklace consists of nine parks. Olmsted linked his six new parks together and joined them to three existing open spaces in central Boston, maximizing the impact of the amassed acreage. Today the open space system still spans much of Boston from north to south and east to west.

Superlatives underscore the need for protection and renovation of Necklace resources. These lands include Boston's oldest park, largest park, most heavily used parks, most venerable collection of public woodlands, an early model for an urban sanitary system, and one of the world's most respected arboretum collections.

Organized support for protection began in 1981 with formation of the Massachusetts Association of Olmsted Parks. MAOP championed the Olmsted firm's role in planning and design for 280 municipal public parks in Massachusetts. Advocacy spurred historic park planning and revitalization initiatives.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (DEM) launched the state-wide Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program in 1984. State and municipal groups with direct jurisdiction for parklands and local community park advocates joined with DEM to develop, adopt and implement twelve comprehensive revitalization plans state-wide. Boston is the participant in two of these projects: the Franklin Park Master Plan 1990 and the Emerald Necklace Master Plan for Jamaica Pond, Olmsted Park, the Riverway and the Back Bay Fens (scheduled for final publication in Spring 1992).

The City of Boston's Open Space Plan of 1986 resulted in concurrent planning efforts for Necklace parks. These projects produced: The Boston Common Management Plan (1990), Boston Common Pathway Plan (1989), The Boston Common and Public Garden Utility Report (1990), the Boston Common Tree Survey (1988), Conceptual Design of Signage for the Boston Common (1986) and Design of Signage for Boston's Emerald Necklace (1990).

TABLE ONE
EMERALD NECKLACE PLANNING EXPENDITURES

City	\$ 207,000
State	\$ 507,000
Private	\$ 5,000

Master plans provide a flexible framework for action. At any time new information can be factored in, with the result that plan recommendations are adaptable. For the next five years as projects are implemented, further needs assessment, analysis of existing conditions, and community input will be components of the process leading to final design.

A plan for portions of Arnold Arboretum is underway. For the Public Garden and Commonwealth Avenue Mall there are no master plans. However there are clear directives via historic documents, design precedents and planning and preservation guidelines for elements such as planting, fencing, lighting, statuary, paths, furnishings, signs and structures. Guidance and further information is available via Parks Department staff. Due to the substantial amount of available baseline data, reference to comprehensive planning below covers all Emerald Necklace parks.

RECENT CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

Along with comprehensive planning efforts the Olmsted Program has appropriated \$2 million per park for capital improvements. Before funding was frozen in 1988, \$1.3 million was allocated to Boston's Emerald Necklace.

Marked improvement of general conditions in the Necklace over the past five years is attributable to the City of Boston's Capital Plan to revitalize municipal parks as well as to the state's Olmsted Program. Since state funding has been frozen, the City of Boston has been able to proceed with capital investments using alternative resources, principally monies administered by the Office of Capital Planning and the Trust Office. Parks Department maintenance efforts, safety and

security enforcement, and increased programming protect capital investments and help ensure continued support for the parks. For example, expansion of the Boston Park Ranger Program to year-round activities, including environmental education in the schools reinforces physical rehabilitation.

TABLE TWO
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS, EMERALD NECKLACE PARKS, 1987-1991

<u>PARK</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Boston Common & Public Garden	\$ 3,904,525
Commonwealth Avenue Mall	227,000
Back Bay Fens	1,560,949
The Riverway	533,419
Olmsted Park	432,694
Jamaica Pond	1,319,310
Arnold Arboretum Infrastructure	244,000
Franklin Park	10,317,327*
TOTAL	\$18,539,224*

TABLE THREE
SOURCES FOR CAPITAL FUNDING, EMERALD NECKLACE 1987-1991

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
City of Boston (Capital Plan, dedicated funds)	\$14,231,941
State (Olmsted & Town Common programs, MDC, MBTA)	3,685,081**
Private (Foundations, Friends, Businesses, Indivs)	622,202
TOTAL	\$18,539,224**

PRINCIPLES, GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The sections below summarize the recent comprehensive planning efforts. We begin with principles, goals, and recommendations which apply to Emerald Necklace parks overall and follow with park-specific descriptions and recommendations. The planning projects and documents listed above all involved extensive data collection, analysis and community input. These plans shall guide all Emerald Necklace revitalization and preservation efforts. (For further reference to Emerald Necklace recommendations in this document also see applicable neighborhood chapters and the sections on Trees and Thoroughfares.)

* Does not included \$26,000,000 in state funds for the Zoo

** Includes \$1,000,000 in state-administered federal funds

General Principles and Goals for the Emerald Necklace

Unity and Access: Improve connections to make the system more unified and legible as a whole to facilitate use, improve public safety, and increase appreciation. Examples include: better bicycle path routing and graphics, pedestrian signals and curb cuts, return of the former Sears parking lot to parkland, and continued implementation of the system-wide sign program.

Awareness and Education: Foster interpretive and educational programs. Continue and strengthen year-round Ranger presence in all Emerald Necklace Parks. Foster increased programming to reach children and adults, residents and visitors. Coordinate interpretive efforts by all groups to assure fullest possible coverage without duplication of services. Produce a widely available guide booklet to the Emerald Necklace.

Safety and Security. Continue to work closely with the Boston Police, Municipal Police, and community groups to correct and avoid problems. Continue to explore limited enforcement powers, such as ticketing, for Boston Park Rangers.

Trees. Provide improved care for all trees -- for parkways and parks including wooded areas. Develop and implement planting plans. Develop and implement tree care standards. Coordinate the efforts of agencies, community groups, and potential donors to ensure that all new trees receive adequate maintenance.

Understory Plantings. Replant Olmstedian understory and shrub vegetation in specific areas to regain lost scenic artistry created by variety, perspective, textures, colors, views, and so forth. Use plantings to combat problems such as desire lines which cause soil compaction and erosion. Adapt plant materials as needed to address security, species appropriateness as it relates to environmental and maintenance factors, and wildlife management.

Wildlife Management. When making decisions regarding rehabilitation efforts, protect wildlife habitats. Strive to enhance nesting and feeding areas.

Water Quality. Advocate for, support and participate in efforts to improve water quality in Scarborough Pond and the Muddy River from Wards Pond to the Charles River. Support implementation of projects in the 1990 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Muddy River Water Quality Improvement Plan. Follow master plans guidelines regarding bank stabilization, replanting and perimeter paths.

Infrastructure. Rehabilitate water, drainage, electrical, road and path systems as needed, observing applicable city, state and federal regulations along with current planning guidelines. Maintain fountains, lights, paving and other elements for public safety and protection of capital investments.

Structures. Renovate fences, walls, bridges, shelters, buildings, terraces, and other structural features which contribute to the design of the parks. Replace intrusive structures that have necessary functions to provide more suitable designs.

Existing Art Work and Memorials. Maintain existing public art and memorials in accordance with the jurisdiction of other city agencies, notably the Boston Art and Landmarks Commissions, and in certain cases the Trust Office. Encourage ongoing efforts by the city's Adopt-a-Statue Program.

Memorials and Gifts. Avoid the proliferation of traditional memorials and artworks. Encourage contributions to Parks Department planned or approved projects on a case-by-case basis such as tree planting; furnishings and fence rehabilitation or installation; conservation of shelters, bridges, fountains, statuary and so forth; sign system implementation. Proponents shall meet with the Parks Department for guidance early on in planning for any proposed memorials or gifts to parks. The Parks Department shall coordinate the review of proposed gifts and memorials in accordance with the jurisdiction of other city agencies, primarily the Art and the Landmarks Commissions.

Intrusive Elements. Remove or mitigate the effects of structures, buildings, furnishings or features that conflict with the visual character of Emerald Necklace parks or which compromise protection and preservation of these parks.

Maintenance. Continue to ensure a high level of maintenance to meet the high demands and historic significance of Emerald Necklace parks. Continue to upgrade equipment and increase human resources. Further develop partnerships that provide extraordinary care.

Fundraising and Collaborative Efforts. Continue efforts to secure outside funds given the special needs of Emerald Necklace parks and governments fiscal limitations. Investigate the establishment of an Emerald Necklace endowment fund. Use city funds to leverage outside giving. Foster partnerships and collaborations to support maintenance, capital and programing projects for preservation and revitalization.

Project Review and Approvals. All capital projects shall undergo community review as well as Parks Department and all other applicable city, state and federal review and approval.

For projects not initiated by the Parks Department the project proponent shall meet with Boston Parks and Recreation Department staff at the early planning stage for any project which will directly affect Emerald Necklace parks and for any development, building or improvement project proposed within 100 feet of parkland. The Parks Department shall provide direction for the planning and design of outside projects. To the extent possible the Parks Department can assist in anticipating required reviews and approvals. However, it is the responsibility of the project proponent to seek and secure any and all required approvals.

Park Specific Descriptions and Recommendations

Boston Common was founded in 1634 to provide pasturage and other shared needs for the town, based upon the English concept of common land. As the country's oldest public open space, Boston Common reflects events important to the history of the city and nation. Since Revolutionary times, the Common has been the city's favorite outdoor place for public assembly.

By 1830 the town had become a city, the sophisticated State House looked down upon a Common bordered by rows of trees, and cows were banned by municipal decree. Throughout the 19th century and into the early 20th century, Boston Common gained paved walks, ornamental fences, statues and memorials and became an urban park in form as well as function. Today the five-sided, 48-acre Common is admired for its landscape features of mature shade trees and rolling lawns as well as its historic structures, artwork and fences.

While serving as Boston's front lawn to all visitors, the Common is also the favored location for large outdoor gatherings and a neighborhood park for the downtown, Chinatown, Bay Village, Beacon Hill, and Back Bay. Active recreation facilities consist of two tennis courts, a softball and a Little League field, a spray pool in the Frog Pond and a small childrens' play area.

The Visitor Information Center at the head of the Freedom Trail is the most heavily used tourist inquiry facility in New England. A completion date of year-end 1992 is set for its replacement with a combined Visitor Information Center and Ranger Station. Involved in this project is the relocation of the current Ranger Station toward Parkman Plaza, its rehabilitation, construction of a rear addition, demolition of the old VIC, and redesign of the MBTA's Freedom Trail exit.

The city is currently working with the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority to replace the underground garage headhouses and revitalize the Parade Ground concurrent with the planned reconstruction of the garage. The city also is collaborating with the MBTA to ensure that current plans for renovation to the Park Street and Boylston Street Stations address Management Plan objectives.

Recommendations. All policies, projects, and programs for the Common will continue to recognize the need to preserve the Common as the primary green oasis in downtown Boston, protecting it against incursions or degradation to its soft green environment of shade trees and expansive lawns.

Maintenance. Maintenance shall concentrate on trees and turf as well as general cleanliness, recognizing that the Common receives higher use and stress than any other Boston park.

Infrastructure. General rehabilitation is a priority for water, drainage, and path systems, to be implemented both as independent projects and as opportunities are presented by other projects which will disrupt the Common. Examples are: reconstruction of the underground garage, and rehabilitation of the Park Street and Boylston Street MBTA Stations.

Specific Projects. Capital projects will focus on high-priority needs. Examples include: the Tremont Street edge, Parkman Bandstand, and the Frog Pond. Flexibility with regard to priorities shall take into account changes in needs. Opportunities shall be pursued to implement Management Plan goals when the Common needs to be disturbed for other projects, such as garage and subway rehabilitation activities.

Communications and Collaboration. Continued allied efforts shall include partnerships with the Friends of the Public Garden and Common, other agencies with jurisdiction such as the MBTA and Boston Landmarks Commission, and with neighbors including developers.

The Public Garden is the oldest public botanical garden in the United States and the formal, passive recreation companion piece to Boston Common. These side-by-side parks serve as THE green oasis in central Boston.

In 1837 when the Public Garden was established, the site was marshland at the foot of the Common and the water's edge (of the Back Bay). When the land was filled in, the garden's design evolved from a plan by George Meacham published in 1859. The picturesque style of the 25-acre park centers on the central lagoon with its lacy bridge and willow trees, as well as surrounding specimen trees, serpentine paths, ornamental fountains, sculpture, and planting beds.

Projects to preserve and enhance the Garden have been conducted in the past five years by the city and the Friends of the Public Garden and Common. They include dredging the lagoon, new signs, more ornamental planting beds at entrances and along edges, installation of the Make Way for Ducklings piece and revitalization of lawns, fountains and art works.

Recommendations. The essential style and character of the Public Garden shall be preserved and reinforced via capital projects, maintenance activities, and administrative policies.

Specific Projects. Of high priority are assessment and rehabilitation of the bridge structure, repairs to the tool shed, stabilization of the lagoon edge, and additional sign installation. Proposed improvements will be reviewed by the Boston Landmarks Commission and Art Commission (if applicable) to ensure that the historic character of the Public Garden is maintained. All projects proposed by others will also be reviewed by the Parks Department.

Infrastructure. The FY 1992 project to make selected repairs to the irrigation system and fountains will be phase one of a program to address needs and implement recommendations set forth in the Boston Common and Garden Utility Plan (1989). The goals are to upgrade the water supply system, improve drainage, and retrofit fountains to recirculate water.

Maintenance. An above-standard level of horticultural and general maintenance shall be continued by the Parks Department for this public botanic garden. Supplemental care will continue via partnerships with others, such as the Friends of the Public Garden and Common and Heritage on the Common.

Commonwealth Avenue Mall was built from the Arlington Street edge of the Public Garden, advancing westward, from 1856 to 1888. As the Back Bay was filled in, Commonwealth Avenue became its spine. The design for Boston's version of a grand Parisian boulevard is credited to Arthur Gilman, with contributions by others including Frederick Law Olmsted.

These 32 acres stretch from Arlington Street to the MBTA subway and bus terminal at Kenmore Square, interrupted by the Massachusetts Avenue underpass as well as by the Muddy River and the highway overpass at Charlesgate. Many elms have died from Dutch Elm Disease. To avoid future vulnerability to any single species, the elms have been replaced with a variety of trees. The central path features memorial statuary. Recent projects by the city and in partnership with the Commonwealth Avenue Mall Committee include tree care and replanting, new signs and fences, and statue lighting.

Recommendations. The Parks and Recreation Department will continue its partnership with the Commonwealth Avenue Mall Committee to pursue funding and complete ongoing projects.

Trees. The tree replacement plan will be completed. Maintenance of established trees will institutionalize care such as cyclical pruning and inoculation of elms. The Commonwealth Avenue Mall Committee will continue to provide extraordinary care for trees and bedded plants.

Lighting of Statues. Lighting will be completed for the Garrison (pending) and three other remaining pieces, (Collins, Sarmiento, and Ericsson) as lighting designs are approved.

Ornamental Fences. Ornamental fences will be installed on Exeter, Fairfield and Gloucester Streets, consistent with the fencing on the cross-streets from Arlington to Dartmouth.

Back Bay Fens dates from 1879 as the first of the five properties which Frederick Law Olmsted designed and built in Boston, to create a linear system of pastoral parks. Here the Muddy River originally met the Charles River in a salt marsh.

Of Olmsted's Emerald Necklace parks, the Fens is the most changed and one of the most active. Meadows and lawns replaced marsh after the Charles River was dammed in 1910. The present design is more groomed and formal than the original, it features the popular Kelly Rose Garden; the WWII, Korean and Vietnam War Memorials; and the Roberto Clemente Field athletic stadium and field house. Without tidal action the shallow pools are stagnant. The H. H. Richardson-designed Boylston Street Bridge is the most dramatic of all the stone bridges in the Necklace. It is now obscured from the Charles River side due to the addition of the Bowker overpass.

The Fens Victory Garden is Boston's oldest community garden. Like the active sports facilities it serves the entire city and greater metropolitan area. The Fens provides essential neighborhood parkland for the Fenway and Longwood Medical Area.

Recommendations. Manage competing uses for active and passive recreation while preserving the Fens.

Upgrade existing sports facilities, particularly Clemente Field and the basketball courts.

Designate quiet/passive recreation areas.

Reconstruct primary structures, chiefly the Duck House and the Evansway Bridge.

very water quality

Continue the partnership agreement with the Boston-Fenway Program. Projects include implementing a tree planting plan and continued planting and care of understory vegetation.

Strengthen the program to regularly and routinely cut invasive phragmites reeds which choke off the water bodies, block views and threaten public safety due to the lack of visibility. Maintain wildlife habitat at same time.

The Riverway, established in 1890, adjoins the western edge of the Fens. From the former Sears parking lot to Route 9, the Muddy River is open and flows through a gentle ravine. Steep, wooded banks insulate the park from the city. The Riverway offers one of the most idyllic and best-preserved experiences of Frederick Law Olmsted's designs. Three stone bridges span the water and the boundary between Boston and Brookline. The Riverway has no active sports facilities. It is popular with walkers, bicyclists, and people seeking a contemplative refuge. This park is largely used by neighbors in Brookline as well as in Mission Hill and the Longwood Medical Area.

Two hands-on City of Boston projects have recently enhanced the appearance of the Riverway. Public Facilities' carpentry crew skillfully restored the very deteriorated roof of the Round House Shelter. The Parks Department's maintenance unit has created a green-carpeted meadow at the south end of the Riverway by subduing a jungle of Japanese Knotweed. Other recent capital improvements are extension of the bikepath from Perkins Street to Route 9 and construction of a small parking lot at Daisy Field.

Recommendations. Continue structural rehabilitation and replanting to fully reinstate the scenic glory of the Riverway.

Foster joint projects between Boston and Brookline to establish the scope of work, fund and implement preservation for the bridges at Brookline Avenue, Chapel-Short Street, and Longwood Avenue.

Restore the missing piece of parkland at the site of the former Sears parking lot in conjunction with the developers of the former Sears building, the Sears park design advisory subcommittee, and other city agencies.

In conjunction with MASCO and the Friends of the Muddy River: improve access to and within the park, rehabilitate pathways, and explore access on the Boston side of the Longwood Avenue Bridge.

Coordinate city participation in the Army Corps of Engineers' project to assess water quality problems, and design and administer treatments. Act as liaison with the community on this project and with advocacy groups such as R.O.W. (Restore Olmsted Waterways) Coalition.

Restore and maintain vegetation. Begin to implement the tree and shrub planting plan developed in 1991. Continue to cut phragmites and Japanese knotweed on a regular basis.

Olmsted Park was established in 1891 at the upper end of the Muddy River as a succession of ponds set in woodlands. The north ends opens up to form Leverett Pond at Route 9. The secluded, wooded south end holds the deepset basin of Wards Pond, abutting Perkins Street. The name "Olmsted Park" was added after the park was built.

The water system demarcates the Boston-Brookline boundary. The quiet woods, ponds, and streams are interrupted at Willow Pond Road by the MDC ice rink and two, very heavily used ball diamonds at Daisy Field. Olmsted Park retains several original stone pedestrian bridges and a stone headwall at Leverett Pond. The Route 9/Huntington Avenue overpass was built in the 1930s. Olmsted Park is a very popular neighborhood open space resource for Mission Hill and Jamaica Plain.

Recommendations. Focus rehabilitation on woodland management and the restoration of Ward's Pond.

Institute a cycle for care of existing trees. Consider Olmsted Park as a laboratory to explore woodland regeneration.

Fund a water quality study for Ward's Pond. Begin water quality improvements at the upstream end of the Muddy River.

Further improve the Ward's Pond landscape. Build upon the clearing efforts made by the Longwood Treatment Center and Appalachian Mountain Club crews. Restore understory planting. Restore the pedestrian path all around the water's edge.

Address structures. Support short-term repairs to the MDC Ice Rink. Encourage building a rink elsewhere in the community to pursue the long-term replacement of this rink with meadowland. Restore the Leverett Pond bridge and outlet.

Jamaica Pond, situated between Perkins Street and the Arborway, was established in 1892. This source of the Muddy River is a 50-foot deep pool. From a formal entrance at Pond Street with a Boathouse and Bandstand (circa 1915), the vista presents green-fringed blue water against tree-covered Hellenic Hill. Olmsted did little to change the landscape except to remove ice cutting facilities and all but one of several country homes. The remaining mansion is Pinebank, designed by Sturgis and Brigham for Edwin Newton Perkins and built in 1870 on the site of two earlier Perkins houses.

Jamaica Pond is the city's most heavily used neighborhood park. Visitors come from all of Boston and from Brookline. Runners, bicyclists, and walkers circle the 1.4 mile perimeter of the pond. Sail and row boats are available at the Boat House which also has a snack concession. The ground floor of the Bandstand houses a Boston Park Ranger Station.

Major capital investment at Jamaica Pond in the past five years has rehabilitated the Boat House and Bandstand, repaired the water leveling mechanism, stabilized and replanted about 1/2 of the water's edge, and rehabilitated 1/2 of the perimeter path. A bicycle and running path has been built on the former bridle path parallel to the Jamaica Way, to help mitigate competing uses.

Recommendations. This park and its surroundings must continue to be carefully protected to balance heavy user demands with the preservation of historic features and natural systems.

Complete the rehabilitation of the pond edge and perimeter path.

With a park partner, such as the Jamaica Pond Project, provide extraordinary maintenance, including to new water's edge plantings.

Continue programming with community participation. Emphasize activities singularly suited to Jamaica Pond such as the current environmental education and boating programs, and gatherings in the bowl and at the bandstand.

Secure a use and funds for the rehabilitation of Pinebank or consider either full demolition or partial demolition and stabilization of the structure as a landscape element.

Hellenic Hill is a premier Urban Wild and an essential component of the scenery and ecosystem of Jamaica Pond. The Parks Department will work with the owners and the community to preserve the Urban Wild.

Arnold Arboretum was established in 1872. It is large and informal enough in character to provide a country park experience, including dramatic views from atop Bussey Hill. The artful and studious planting of the Arboretum collection results from a collaboration between Frederick Law Olmsted and Charles Sprague Sargent. The Arboretum is located at the south end of the Arborway from Jamaica Pond. It is managed by the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University under a 999-year lease with the City of Boston. The legacy of earlier estate owners is retained by name in such features as Walter Street Burying Ground, Bussey Brook, and Weld Street.

The Arboretum is bordered by the neighborhoods of Jamaica Plain, Forest Hills, and Roslindale. Known worldwide for its collection and propagation of trees, it also serves as a favorite regional and neighborhood passive park.

Recommendations. The Department encourages development of a comprehensive master plan. Directed by Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, it must have real input from the city and the community.

Support the opportunity at the Forest Hills tract to interpret an Urban Wild.

Continue to rehabilitate pathways, roads, walls, and other infrastructure components in conjunction with Arnold Arboretum staff, master plan team members, community and advocacy groups.

Franklin Park accounts for more than half the land area of the Emerald Necklace park system and approximately 1/4 of the City of Boston's total parkland. Landscape designers and historians call it as one of the finest public parks ever built.

Franklin Park's design dates from 1885. Its 527 acres, arranged in a diamond shape, are set among Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, Forest Hills, Dorchester, and Mattapan. A century after its creation, Franklin Park is still a much-needed refuge from the city. It suffered a severe decline in the 1960s and 1970s and is now significantly rehabilitated and revisited.

With its Country Meadow, 65-acre woodland Wilderness, and peaceful Scarborough Pond, the park still magically suggests a rural retreat. There are picturesque ruins of a Shelter and Terrace on Schoolmaster Hill above the meadow and remains of the Overlook Shelter at the Playstead.

Designed as the active part of the park, Playstead has versatile, popular playing fields and the newly refurbished White Stadium. The newly revitalized Franklin Park Zoo, managed by the MDC, and the William Devine Municipal Golf Course (in the meadow) bring 40,000 visitors annually. The city, with support from DEM, has just completed the construction of new cross-country running paths. Construction of the running paths resolved user conflicts on the Golf Course and replaced obsolete paved roadways with grass. A design to revitalize the bridle paths was prepared concurrently.

Recommendations. As the largest park in the city's park system and an internationally recognized historic landscape design achievement, Franklin Park poses many challenges today. Neighborhood and active park user needs must be addressed, while respecting the historic and regional significance of this "country park". Although statistics show that Franklin Park is quite safe, a perception lingers from past decades which thwarts many potential visitors. Because it accounts for approximately 1/4 of the City of Boston's parkland, maintenance and capital improvement needs continue to be substantial, particularly because a significant amount of the park's vegetation, structures, and infrastructure is a century old.

Design, fund, and build a Visitors Center. Expand programming to bring people more into the park. Increase neighborhood partnerships such as with the Franklin Park Coalition. Continue to host a variety of events such as the World's Cross Country Race (March 1992). Coordinate activities with authorities for the Zoo and for White Stadium.

Support the Public Facilities Department and its developer in efforts to rehabilitate the Williams Street Stable. To return horseback riding to the park, rehabilitate the bridle path system when the stable project is underway.

Respond to neighborhood needs: Rehabilitate perimeter children's play areas at Walnut Street and Humboldt Avenue. Address security needs. Rehabilitate ball fields, improve basketball facilities, and move the tennis court. Provide or retain picnic tables in suitable locations.

Complete the design and implementation of other priority rehabilitation projects such as: Ellicotdale Arch (including replanting), Forest Hills entrance improvements, Playstead Overlook Shelter preservation, Bear Dens stabilization, and further implementation of the sign system.

Provide extraordinary maintenance and management of vegetation. The Wilderness must begin to be cleared and pruned on a 10-year cycle under direction of the Superintendent of Tree Maintenance. A tree planting plan must be developed and implemented.

Continue to implement the Franklin Park Maintenance Yard master plan for reorganization and revitalization of the existing yard.

Fund and oversee preparation of a water quality assessement and treatment plan for Scarborough Pond and implement it by phases.

Continue coordination with agencies and among agencies and community groups to avoid user conflicts and to assist with maintenance, programming, and fund-raising.

HISTORIC AND ACTIVE CEMETERIES

Overview

Boston's Historic Cemeteries

HISTORIC AND ACTIVE CEMETERIES

The City of Boston has a rich history of burial places. The first cemetery was established in 1630 in the North Churchyard. Over the years, many other cemeteries have been founded, each with its own unique character and history. Some of the most famous include the Granary Burying Ground, the Old South Churchyard, and the Mount Auburn Cemetery. These cemeteries are not only places of final rest but also important landmarks that reflect the city's heritage and values.

Because of their historical significance, many of these cemeteries are now protected as historic landmarks. The City of Boston has established a Historic Cemeteries Commission to oversee the preservation and management of these sites. This commission works to ensure that the historical integrity of the cemeteries is maintained while also addressing the needs of the community. For example, they have initiated projects to restore old headstones and improve the overall condition of the burial grounds.

Although the historic cemeteries are protected, the city also recognizes the need for new burial spaces. To address this, the city has established a new cemetery, the Boston Public Cemetery, which is designed to be a modern and accessible place of final rest for all residents.

Historic Cemetery Initiative

The Historic Cemetery Initiative is an effort by the City of Boston to preserve and restore its historic burial grounds. This initiative involves a variety of activities, including archaeological excavations, historical research, and the restoration of old headstones. The city has also established a fund to support these efforts, and it encourages the public to contribute to the preservation of these important sites.

The initiative grew out of a growing concern among city residents and officials about the state of the historic cemeteries. Many of the sites were in poor condition, with crumbling headstones and overgrown grounds. The initiative aims to address these issues and ensure that these historic places are preserved for future generations.

HISTORIC AND ACTIVE CEMETERIES

OVERVIEW

Boston's historic cemeteries are important examples of the city's early landscape, linking contemporary Boston with a rich historical and developmental legacy.

The City of Boston has 16 historic burying grounds and three larger garden style cemeteries under its jurisdiction which date between 1630 and 1892 and are located in 13 Boston neighborhoods. Gravemarkers honor founders of Boston's communities, Revolutionary heroes of national and international fame, and many more historical figures important to the city's development. The carving methods and motifs used on historic gravemarkers reflect Puritan and Colonial culture in Boston and offer a glimpse of the 17th and 18th century stone cutter's art from a period in which nothing else remains in context. Combined with a relatively unchanged early landscape, historic cemeteries also act as important open spaces in Boston's neighborhoods, often in areas that are densely built with no other available open space.

Because of their historic nature Boston's burying grounds are important historical sites for a national constituency of academics, descendants and tourists who visit Boston. Four, the Granary, King's Chapel, Central, and Copp's Hill, are located along Boston's Freedom Trail and thus attract thousands of visitors annually. Eleven historic burying grounds are listed on the National Register of Historic Places; two sites, Central and Dorchester North are designated Boston Landmarks; Granary lies within the Beacon Hill Architectural District; the South End Burying Ground is located within the South End Landmark District; and Eliot (Eustis Street) lies within the Eustis Street Architectural Conservation District.

Although the 16 historic burying grounds are closed to burials, the three active cemeteries continue to offer burial space for Boston residents and veterans.

Historic Burying Grounds Initiative

The Historic Burying Grounds Initiative is an effort of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department to restore the city's cemeteries. Combining public and private funding, community support, advocacy, and public education, the Initiative is the largest cemetery restoration program undertaken by a municipality in the United States.

The Initiative grew out of an awareness voiced in the mid-1970s by several Boston preservation agencies, that the effects of age, environment, and deferred maintenance posed an imminent threat of

loss to the City's historic burying grounds and thus to the heritage of the city, New England and the nation. Acknowledging the historical and artistic importance of these sites in Boston's landscape, the Parks Department, the Boston Landmarks Commission and the Bostonian Society began a collaborative effort to inventory over 15,000 markers and assemble a masterplan addressing structural, landscape and masonry conservation measures in the historic cemeteries. The Master Plan for Boston's Historic Burying Grounds, completed in 1985, guided capital improvements and private fundraising and partnerships over the past six years, and continues to set objectives for restoration and rehabilitative efforts. The Initiative has completed over one third of the estimated \$6.1 million cost attached to comprehensive rehabilitation. Funded in part by \$1.4 million of Mayor Flynn's Rebuilding Boston capital program, the Parks Department has successfully raised over \$2.5 million in private and public funding for specific projects.

Active Cemeteries Revitalization Efforts

The City of Boston, through the Parks Department, operates three public cemeteries (Mount Hope in Mattapan, Fairview in Hyde Park and Evergreen in Brighton) for Boston residents, particularly those individuals who cannot afford a more expensive, private cemetery. In 1989, the city faced a critical point at which only 200 burial plots were available, enough to accommodate burials to June of 1990. Burial plots for veterans were also minimal at Mount Hope Cemetery. The city increased fees for burials and, after 20 years of neglect, launched a 10 year plan to add 5,000 burial plots in Fairview and Mount Hope cemeteries, and perform deferred maintenance and capital improvements at all three sites. Thus far 750 new vaults have been installed at Fairview and another 1300 plots for veterans at Mount Hope. Fees for burials remain lower than all private and public cemeteries in Greater Boston, except for the town of Brookline which is \$50.00 less expensive.

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department Cemetery Division Evaluation and Recommendations, prepared by Landscape Design Associates in 1989 guides the rehabilitation of the three active cemeteries, Mount Hope, Evergreen, and Fairview. Since 1989 a concerted effort has been made by the Parks Department to improve the appearance and the carry out improvements to the active cemeteries. These include rehabilitation of administration buildings, construction of a maintenance facility at Mount Hope, and restoration of memorials.

RECOMMENDATIONS

General

The Master Plan for Boston's Historic Cemeteries and the Cemetery Division Evaluation and Recommendations have been guiding the implementation of restoration and rehabilitation projects in the historic and active cemeteries under the city's jurisdiction. The master plan for the historic cemeteries also offers a methodology for historic gravemarker conservation which continues to guide the philosophy of the Historic Burying Grounds Initiative's preservation projects. The plans, however, may be modified or expanded over time in order to better reflect improved methods of conducting preservation of historic cemetery landscapes and gravemarkers.

While the historic and active cemeteries have their individual needs suited to particular issues and elements of their landscapes, the following categories of recommendations should guide those issues which are shared commonly by all 19 sites:

- . Continue, through use of City of Boston capital funding or through funds raised through private sources, to implement recommendations for rehabilitation and conservation projects as recommended in the historic and active cemetery plans. Continue to seek private funding to complement funding from the Office of Capital Planning. Particular emphasis shall target methods by which to secure funding/contributions from family descendents.

- . Explore establishment of endowment or similar way of funding for special and/or emergency projects which come about typical to historic cemeteries but outside the realm of maintenance operations such as sealing open tombs or gravestone resetting.

- . Continue and improve current levels of regular maintenance to include emphasis on tree management, lawn rehabilitation, monument resetting and volunteer growth removal.

- . Continue to encourage neighborhood constituencies for each historic cemetery in order to assist in development of programs, resources, maintenance support and advocacy.

- . Continue to unlock historic cemeteries by appointment, but initiate efforts to regularly open burying grounds where there is neighborhood support and supervision.

- . Continue to develop educational programs as public awareness supplementary to the Historic Burying Grounds Initiative. Use historic and active cemeteries as educational resources for schools, further developing Boston Park Ranger interpretive efforts and augmenting involvement the public schools and the Freedom Trail.

- . Incorporate interpretive signage on all Freedom Trail sites; on some select neighborhood sites. Overall signage program should be developed for neighborhood identification signs.

- . Develop an historic preservation plan for the three active cemeteries including marker inventories and landscape restoration plans.
- . Develop planting plans for active cemeteries, particularly for new burial areas and proposed expansion areas.
- . In order to accommodate a city policy to provide burial space for Boston residents, the Parks Department should make efforts to seek land within the City of Boston for long term burial space.

Summary of Sites and Individual Recommendations

Bennington Street Cemetery, East Boston, 1838

The three-acre Bennington Street Cemetery was laid out five years after Noddle's Island became East Boston. Originally overlooking Boston Harbor, the cemetery now faces Logan Airport and provides an open space in an area dominated by airport and highway traffic. Nineteenth-century markers record the names of East Boston's early residents including many eastern European immigrants. In 1990, \$40,000 in fence repairs was dedicated to the site, and the Friends of Bennington Street Cemetery have garnered financial support from membership and residents to plant 16 trees in 1991.

Recommendations

- . Complete recommended master plan projects in order of priority: gravestone/monument resetting, walkway rehabilitation, rear fence repairs, and wall and tomb repairs on Bennington Street and Harmony Streets.
- . Regular trimming of hedge on Bennington Street side, and installation of security lighting from baseball field light poles into rear of cemetery will facilitate security over overall site.
- . Work with Friends of Bennington Street Cemetery to support upgraded maintenance, educational programs and events, and fundraising. Develop a brochure on the cemetery and consider interpretive signage for the site.

Bunker Hill Cemetery, Charlestown, 1807

Located on Bunker Hill Street, Charlestown's second cemetery is a reflection of Charlestown's rapid growth during early nineteenth century Irish immigration. The property lies on the site crossed by British fortifications in the Battle of Bunker Hill. Unlike the Phipps Street Burying Ground which lies on the outskirts of the Charlestown neighborhood, Bunker Hill is more centrally located and therefore enjoys greater neighborhood support. Since 1986, the front entrance fence and gate have been repaired and volunteer growth removed.

Recommendations

- . Complete recommended improvements to the Bunker Hill Cemetery including: security lighting in the rear of the cemetery, resetting of fallen gravemarkers, tree planting, lawn rehabilitation and pathway installation.

- . Work with Charlestown Preservation Society, the Charlestown Historical Society and the Charlestown Neighborhood Council to develop neighborhood support, educational programs and advocacy for fundraising and capital improvements.

Central Burying Ground, Boston Common, 1756

Located on Boylston Street between Tremont and Charles Streets, Central Burying Ground is the fourth to be established in the City of Boston in 1756 to alleviate overcrowding in the older burying grounds. Gilbert Stuart and William Billings are interred here, but the cemetery was primarily reserved for "strangers" or visitors from foreign lands, Roman Catholics and Freemasons. The entire site is enclosed by a fence including "The Dell," a large freestanding tomb structure which currently stands in disrepair. A priority issue following the development of the historic burying grounds master plan, the mound tomb structure was reinforced with pressure treated wood bracing which have prevented further deterioration. In 1989 and 1990, the Massachusetts Cultural Council with matching funds from the Henderson Foundation and the Friends of the Public Garden and Common funded comprehensive slate gravemarker conservation at Central and the Parks Department in 1989 pruned all trees in the cemetery.

Recommendations

- . The mound tomb disrepair shall be resolved with input from the Boston Landmarks Commission, the Friends of the Public Garden and Common, the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Boston Parks Department.

- . Conservation of small tomb structures, tree maintenance and lawn rehabilitation shall be carried out.

- . The Boylston Street gate shall be closed, and primary access to the burying ground created on the fence facing Boston Common. The Boylston Street edge of the cemetery should be appropriately planted with grass or vegetation sustainable under shady conditions.

- . Identification and interpretive signage, using the model developed for the Granary Burying Ground, should be developed for Central.

Copp's Hill Burying Ground, North End, 1659

One of seven 17th century historic burying grounds in Boston, Copp's Hill was a stronghold from which the British shelled Charlestown in 1775. Interred here are Cotton Mather, minister and theologian; Edmund Hart, builder of Old Ironsides; and more than 1,000 African Americans who constituted the 18th century New Guinea community. One of the few greenspaces in the densely built North End, the two

acre burying ground complements the next-door Copp's Hill Terrace which together offer stunning views over Boston Harbor to Charlestown. Over \$350,000 in wall reconstruction has been devoted to Copp's Hill by municipal capital improvements funding. Additionally, funding from the Massachusetts Historical Commission in 1988 completed emergency conservation of over 300 slate gravemarkers.

Recommendations

- . Substantial gravemarker conservation, including repair of broken stones and resetting of tilted stones shall be a priority undertaking at this site. Deteriorating tomb markers shall also be addressed.
- . Identification and interpretive signage, using the model at the Granary Burying Ground, shall be a priority for this Freedom Trail site.
- . Handicap accessibility shall be sought for this site in conjunction with any proposed development of the Michelangelo School, or an appropriate solution determined for the Hull of Charter Street entrances.
- . The Parks Department shall work with the Friends of Copp's Hill Burying Ground and the Copp's Hill Association to increase advocacy for the burying ground, develop educational programs, and raise funds for project implementation.
- . Dog walking is a particularly intrusive issue for the Copp's Hill Burying Ground and should be curbed using a combination of public education and legal measures.

Dorchester North Burying Ground, Upham's Corner, 1633

Located at the corner of Columbia Road and Stoughton Streets, the 8-acre Dorchester North Burying Ground was the Town of Dorchester's only cemetery for two centuries. Generations of prominent Dorchester families are represented as well as William Stoughton, Chief Justice during the Salem Witch Trials of 1692; Richard Mather, minister and progenitor of the Mather family; and John Foster, Boston's first printer. Dorchester North contains early slate gravestones of particular artistic merit, including the 17th century John Foster stone which is currently exhibited at the Museum of Fine Arts. Nineteenth century maple and oak trees planted by local horticulturalist Samuel Downer, remain, but large Elm trees succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease over the past three decades.

1986 CDBG and Browne Fund grants were devoted to reconstruction of the Columbia Road wall and entrance, while funding from the Boston Globe Foundation, the Henderson Foundation and the Browne Fund have recently allowed the installation of security lighting and comprehensive monument resetting and gravestone conservation. In 1992 the Commonwealth's Mass Releaf program will fund the planting of 20 new trees on site, in accordance with master plan guidelines.

Recommendations

- . Structural improvements to the Wood Mausoleum, the mound tomb, and the tomb markers shall be undertaken. Landscape priorities include the rehabilitation of walkways, tree maintenance, removal of invasive vegetation, and lawn rehabilitation. All relevant work shall be reviewed by the Boston Landmarks Commission.
- . Work with the Dorchester Historical Society's Cemetery Committee, the Friends of Dorchester Cemeteries and abutting neighborhood and business associations to encourage neighborhood involvement and advocacy, special projects, fundraising and development of educational programs.
- . The Parks Department, with community groups, should evaluate the need for identification and interpretive signage at Dorchester North.

Dorchester South Cemetery, Lower Mills, 1814

Opened in 1814 to alleviate overcrowding in the North Dorchester Burying Ground, Dorchester South is a noteworthy early example of the garden cemetery movement that began with Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge in 1831. Samuel Downer, a prominent businessman and horticulturalist designed the landscape, developing the grounds as a botanical park with ornamental trees and shrubbery.

Recommendations

- . Local wall and fence repairs, and mound tomb repair are important structural issues to be addressed at Dorchester South. Landscape issues such as pathways, lawn rehabilitation and tree planting are immediate concerns, and should respect any existing historic landscape documentation.
- . Work with community groups such as the Dorchester Historical Society and with the Boston Park Rangers to encourage program use of Dorchester South.

Eliot (Eustis Street), Roxbury, 1630

Eliot Burying Ground was the Town of Roxbury's first graveyard and was named after John Eliot, preacher to 17th century Native Americans. Also interred here are generations of local Roxbury families such as Seaver, Ruggles, Williams, Gridley and Dudley. Today, the burying ground lies within the Eustis Street Architectural Conservation District and is a proposed site within the Roxbury Heritage State Park master plan.

In 1986 a bulging section of the puddingstone wall was rebuilt with City of Boston capital funding and a 1988 project to conserve over 300 broken and delaminating slate gravemarkers, and rehabilitate the entrance area and gate was undertaken with funding from the Browne Fund, the Mabel Louise Riley Foundation and Historic Boston Incorporated. In 1992, 20 trees will be planted at Eliot with funding from the Commonwealth's Mass Releaf Program.

Recommendations

- . Minimal gravemarker conservation remaining at Eliot should be addressed. Brownstone tomb markers, particularly that of the First Church ministers, should be conserved.
- . Pathway rehabilitation using unit pavers of brick or concrete should be undertaken. Handicap accessibility shall be resolved though the rehabilitation of the abutting Eustis Street Fire Station or the Nawn Factory.
- . Signage and handicap access shall contribute to and be planned in conjunction with the Roxbury Heritage State Park, but shall follow historic burying grounds master plan guidelines.
- . The trees at Eliot Burying Ground should be pruned and fertilized. The willow tree at the rear of the burying ground should be removed due to its poor condition and interference with below-grade tombs.

Evergreen Cemetery, Brighton, 1848

The Town of Brighton purchased Evergreen in 1848 from the Aspinwall family in order to create a second cemetery for Brighton in the newly emerging "garden style." Since public parks were not yet popular at the time, Evergreen's 13.88 acres was also used by residents for passive recreation. Today it is one of three active city cemeteries for the City of Boston and contains a public monument to Brighton's Civil War soldiers designed by George Meacham, architect of Boston's Public Garden. Recent rehabilitation efforts have repaired the masonry entrance wall and iron fencing, and the administration building.

Recommendations

- . The Civil War Monument should be rehabilitated along with its immediate landscape.
- . Repair the waterway lines and roadways for access.

Fairview Cemetery, Hyde Park, 1892

The only public cemetery in Hyde Park, Fairview reflects the development of the Hyde Park neighborhood and is the final resting place for James Monroe Trotter, the U.S. Army's first black commissioned officer; Hippolitus Fiske and Charles Jenny, founders of Hyde Park; and John Joseph Enneking, an important member of the Boston School of Painters at the turn of the century. The hilly contours of Fairview cemetery lend it an attractive natural quality, and magnificent views of the Blue Hills can be seen from the top of Cedar Grove Road.

Fairview Cemetery is currently the primary location for city burials in Boston. Emergency need for expanded burial space for City of Boston residents prompted the installation of 750 new vaults at Fairview Cemetery in 1990. In 1992 administrative facilities at Fairview will receive improvements.

Recommendations

- . New burial areas should include provisions for planting of trees and/or shrubbery.
- . The Civil War monument should be conserved using appropriate bronze restoration treatments.
- . Edge treatment along the Neponset River side of the cemetery should highlight the natural qualities and link the cemetery to the waterfront. Plans should be undertaken in conjunction with Harbor/Waterfront planning.

Granary Burying Ground, Downtown, 1660

Taking its name from the 18th century town grain storage building, the Granary was part of Boston Common when it was established. Today, the two acre burying ground is enclosed on three sides by tall office and institutional buildings. The Egyptian Revival entry gate and Tremont Street wall were designed by Solomon Willard and built in 1830. The Granary contains a particularly rich collection of 17th and 18th century gravestone carving, and markers exist here for prominent Bostonians Sam Adams, John Hancock, Paul Revere, Ben Franklin's family, and, according to legend, Mother Goose.

Recent pathway reconstruction included provisions for handicap accessibility and improved circulation. City capital funding has been devoted to the repair of tomb structures and the repair of ornamental fence and gates. Other projects undertaken with a variety of private funding include interpretive signage, tree pruning, and gravestone and monument conservation. In 1992, the Franklin family monument will be rehabilitated.

Recommendations

- . Comprehensive slate gravestone and tomb marker conservation is an immediate priority for fundraising and implementation at the Granary.
- . The Tremont Street wall and fence shall be fully reconstructed as a priority structural issue.
- . A maintenance agreement with the Friends of Granary Burying Ground remains to be developed, and shall include lawn rehabilitation and maintenance, tree maintenance and fertilization as important components.
- . The Friends of Granary with the Parks Department and the Boston Park Ranger program should continue to develop and offer programming for this site. The Freedom Trail's People and Places Program is also a vehicle by which to introduce school children to Boston history.

Hawes/Union, South Boston, 1816/1841

This site is actually two cemeteries. The Hawes portion on Emerson Street was donated by John Hawes, a wealthy South Boston resident. The Union cemetery on Fifth Street, is separated from Hawes by a row

of tombs. Prominent local citizens buried in Hawes/Union include John Hawes, Cyrus Alger and Daniel Simpson.

Entry gates to the cemetery once in poor condition have been repaired, and in 1989 substantial repair to the mound tombs were undertaken at Hawes/Union

Recommendations

- . Complete limited gravestone and monument repair, tree maintenance and planting, and lawn rehabilitation.

King's Chapel, Downtown, 1630

The oldest cemetery in Boston, King's Chapel Burying Ground was the estate of early Bostonian Isaac Johnson a portion of which was seized in 1686 for an Anglican Church, hence the name. Prominent individuals buried here are John Winthrop, William Dawes, Robert Keayne, founder of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, and Mary Chilton, the first woman to step from the Mayflower in Plymouth.

King's Chapel was the site used for the pilot gravestone conservation effort undertaken in 1985. Since then, city capital improvement funding has been used toward entrance repairs, handicap accessibility and ornamental iron fence repairs. Additional private funding repaired tomb structures and addressed various tree and landscaping concerns.

Recommendations

- . Install new pathways at King's Chapel Burying Ground which should include erosion control by landscape regrading, and lawn rehabilitation.

- . Repair deteriorated tomb structures and conserve remaining broken gravestones. Address rear wall repairs and complete restoration of decorative iron fence along Tremont Street.

- . Develop identification and interpretive signage based on the prototype at the Granary Burying Ground.

Market Street, Brighton, 1764

Associated with the Third Church of Cambridge until 1807 when Brighton became a separate town, Market Street Burying Ground was Brighton's primary cemetery until the 1850's when Evergreen Cemetery was established. Wall reconstruction was recently completed at Market Street Burying Ground.

Recommendations

- . Rebuild the entrance area retaining walls, and design and install a new gate.

- . Conserve approximately six broken gravestones and reset many tilted stones.

- . Complete tree planting recommendations based on master plan.

Mount Hope Cemetery, Mattapan, 1851

The largest of all city-owned cemeteries, Mount Hope's 125 acres contain burial plots for veterans of all wars since the Civil War; a variety of organizations such as the Elks, Odd Fellows and Masons; the oldest burial area for Boston's Chinese immigrants; and a monument to the Irish Patriot, John E. Kelly. Mount Hope's landscape design is based on the garden style cemetery which was initiated at Mount Auburn and Forest Hills Cemeteries before being implemented here. Two man-made ponds grace a rolling landscape and curvilinear tree-lined streets.

A new maintenance facility and repairs to administration and chapel buildings are currently being undertaken at Mount Hope. In 1989 and 1990 restoration of the Veterans memorial area and expansion of burial space for veterans initiated a new emphasis on management and rehabilitation of the active cemeteries.

Recommendations

- . A methodology and pilot effort should be undertaken to inventory and document gravemarkers at Mount Hope for condition and preservation.

- . Tree maintenance such as pruning and fertilization should be undertaken at Mount Hope on its older tree stock.

- . A plan for the restoration and repair of the three Chinese sections of the cemetery should be undertaken by the Parks Department and the Chinese community in Boston in order to best reverse deterioration of markers and landscapes, and accommodate the needs of the community.

Phipp's Street Burying Ground, Charlestown, 1630

One of the few vestiges of 17th century Charlestown after the British leveled the town during the Revolution, Phipps Street Burying Ground also contains some of the finest gravestone carving to be found in the eastern United States for that period. A granite obelisk memorializes John Harvard, founder of Harvard College and Charlestown resident, and a plaque marks the burial location of Nathaniel Gorham, one of two Massachusetts signers of the U.S. Constitution.

Recommendations

- . Complete comprehensive gravemarker conservation, resetting of toppled monuments, and repair of tomb markers. Repair deteriorating brick walls.

- . Dead trees should be removed and trees planted in accordance with the historic burying grounds master plan.

- . Install new pathways, extending current configuration of paved areas to allow greater circulation.

- . Work with the Charlestown Preservation Society, the Charlestown Historical Society and the Charlestown Neighborhood Council to develop neighborhood support and educational programs and fundraising activities for Phipps Street.

South End Burying Ground, South End, 1810

Known as the workingman's burying ground, most burials in the South cemetery are not marked, and successive filling of the marshy site permitted burials in several tiers. A plan for the site guided the construction of walled tombs around the perimeter of the cemetery which today dominate the site. Once square in shape, the burying ground is now L-shaped indicating that a quarter of the original site has been acquired by abutters.

The Washington Street and East Concord Street granite perimeter walls of the cemetery were rebuilt between 1986 and 1989, and a new gate was installed in 1989.

Recommendations

- . Repair and/or reconstruct interior wall tombs and free-standing tomb structures. All repair plans should be presented to the South End Landmarks Commission.

- . Remove volunteer growth in rear of cemetery, prune existing trees and plant new trees according to master plan.

- . Work with the Blackstone/Washington Neighborhood Association to promote neighborhood interest and stewardship of the site.

Walter Street Burying Ground, Roslindale 1711

Established by the Second Church of Christ in Roxbury when it moved to Centre Street, Walter Street Burying Ground adjoins the Peter's Hill area of the Arnold Arboretum. Prominent local families interred there include Baker, Chamberlain, Weld, Child, and Mayo.

The puddingstone wall and entrance of the burying ground which also acts as the Walter Street entrance to the Arnold Arboretum was fully reconstructed in 1989.

Recommendations

- . Work with the Arnold Arboretum to develop plans for perimeter plantings along the newly reconstructed Walter Street wall.

- . Complete remaining master plan recommendations such as gravestone and tomb repairs, and lawn rehabilitation.

Westerly Burying Ground, West Roxbury, 1683

Westerly gave inhabitants of Jamaica Plain and the Spring of Roxbury a nearby place to bury their dead and served as the West Roxbury

graveyard for 268 years. The burying ground provides a visual record of three centuries of early settlers and local gravestone carving.

City capital improvements funding was devoted to the reconstruction of the Centre Street wall and gate of the burying ground in 1988.

Recommendations

- . Trees should be pruned, and new trees should be planted according to the historic burying grounds master plan.

- . Work with the West Roxbury Historical Society to develop educational programs for children and adults.

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Public shade trees are a vital part of the city's landscape and provide many benefits to the community. They provide shade, reduce air pollution, and improve the quality of life. The city has a long history of planting public shade trees, and this tradition continues today. The city's public shade trees are a valuable asset, and it is the city's responsibility to maintain and expand this resource.

PUBLIC SHADE TREES

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A Tree Program For Boston

Although the city of Boston has a long history of planting public shade trees, it is the city's responsibility to maintain and expand this resource. The city's public shade trees are a valuable asset, and it is the city's responsibility to maintain and expand this resource. The city's public shade trees are a valuable asset, and it is the city's responsibility to maintain and expand this resource.

However, as the city's population grows, the need for public shade trees becomes more acute. The city's public shade trees are a valuable asset, and it is the city's responsibility to maintain and expand this resource. The city's public shade trees are a valuable asset, and it is the city's responsibility to maintain and expand this resource. The city's public shade trees are a valuable asset, and it is the city's responsibility to maintain and expand this resource.

Boston's public shade trees, those lining its streets and avenues, and those found in its parks, playgrounds, cemeteries, urban wilds, and squares, contribute to making Boston a beautiful city. The city recognizes trees for their contribution as aesthetic and social resources, as well as an important component of the urban eco-system, providing environmental protection.

The aesthetics of the urban forest can be pictured easily: The stately elms of Mt. Vernon Street, the middle aged oaks of American Legion Parkway, the newly replenished allees of Commonwealth Avenue, the tree lined streets of many of the older neighborhoods. In parks there are countless examples of varied type: woodlands in Franklin Park and dotted throughout the Emerald Necklace, informal and formal park plantings ranging from Dorchester Park to Post Office Square.

The urban forest as beneficial eco-system is equally as evident and documented through environmental research of the last several years. Trees return oxygen to the air, filter harmful rays of the sun and dust, provides shade, protect people and property from wind and weather, and generally contribute to the physical well being of the city's residents. The positive ecological impact of a well-planted city places Boston within the larger global spectrum of environmental awareness.

The urban forest as a social resource is a less tangible quality which must be defined by a series of processes. Trees help residents to define their neighborhood, and its special character. The single most popular request at the department is for tree pruning and tree planting. In many cases neighborhoods have organized to plant missing trees. The planting of trees fosters community spirit and helps some neighborhoods to rebuild their image and sense of identity.

A Tree Program For Boston

Although the need for tree planting and maintenance in Boston's neighborhoods is well defined by aesthetics and environmental arguments, these activities have been splintered over the past several decades, preventing easy revival of an organized and consistent implementation policy until recently. Moreover, to date a non-profit advocacy, planting and educational organization such as TreePeople in Los Angeles or the Street Tree Consortium in New York City has not surfaced in Boston, thus preventing a consolidation of tree support between municipal activities and neighborhood constituencies.

However, as reinvestment in the city's Park system has taken place, public shade trees maintenance and management is being renewed with greater emphasis by the Parks and Recreation Department. In 1988, a Shade Tree Advisory Committee made up of private citizens and experts in tree care, was assembled by the Parks Department. The Committee was instrumental in selecting a Superintendent of Trees for the City of Boston, a previously non existent position.

With new management of trees, the Department has effectively eliminated a backlog of tree maintenance (i.e. pruning and removal) constituent requests and initiated a systematic approach to tree maintenance city-wide. It has also embarked on efforts to coordinate city agencies in tree planting and is better utilizing contract funds to address tree maintenance and planting. Community programming, an effort to educate the public and involve residents in their neighborhood's tree maintenance, now includes regular Arbor Day plantings for schools and organizations, and a cooperative tree planting program where residents pay for a tree which the Parks Department will plant.

Comprehensive Shade Tree Policy

The Comprehensive Shade Tree Policy for the City of Boston was recently developed by the Parks Department and is a document which brings together all regulations, operations, technical specifications and programs together. A publicly visible document that is implemented and enforced by the Parks Department and other city agencies will enhance Boston's urban forest and result in a more beautiful, comfortable and healthy environment for Boston's residents and visitors.

The Next Five Years

Over the next several years, a tree program for the city should be fine tuned to eliminate interdepartmental confusion over tree planting and management on public property, and to augment maintenance and planting capabilities city-wide and public education and programming with regard to trees.

The Comprehensive Tree Policy illustrates means by which these goals can be achieved. Tree policy issues can be generally categorized into the following three categories:

- o Statutory Responsibility and Regulations
- o Planting, Inventory and Maintenance
- o Community Involvement and Programming

The following sections summarize city policy with regard to trees and recommendations that can be achieved in the next five years:

Statutory Responsibility and Regulations

The Commissioner of Parks is by statute (Chapter 87 Massachusetts General Laws) the Tree Warden of the city. Together with the Superintendent of Trees, he is responsible for establishing a workplan for trees within the statutory regulations which have already been established. The current draft of the Comprehensive Tree Policy brings all regulations, operations, technical specifications, and programs together for review and adoption by the

Parks Commission. By virtue of its mandate to maintain public shade trees, the Parks Department should also be intricately involved in all planting of trees on public land by city agencies.

Recommendations

. The Parks Commission shall adopt the **Comprehensive Policy for Public Shade Trees in the City of Boston.**

. Modify and broaden city ordinances to make them relevant to present day. The issue of a centralization of tree issues comes up here as well.

. Implement permitting process in accordance with stated Tree Policy for public and private agencies and individuals undertaking tree planting or construction affecting trees.

. Develop tree management plan(s) as needed for open spaces, parkland and street trees in conjunction with an inventory process.

Planting, Inventory and Maintenance

Over the Parks Commission's 125-year history the tree inventory has been continually replenished, as the city budget allowed for such expenditure, and as improvement to streets and parkland allowed. With the exception of the Emerald Necklace, little historical data exists to substantiate a general sense among tree advocates that the inventory contains too great a percentage of mature trees. A visual inspection of streets confirm this information in a subjective manner and the Emerald Necklace plans identify mature trees as an issue for the future. It is clear that planning for trees in the 21st century must be based on accurate, useful information available through modern technology. Building a useable inventory, which incorporates the data on annual planting and on-going work must be a priority over the next several years.

Planting: Over the last 5 years the Mayor's Rebuilding Boston program has planted over 1200 trees in parks. Other city agencies have planted street trees around developments and improvement projects at a rate of 1000 per year. Many of these trees have thrived, many have not. Presently the Parks Department is reviewing all the planting done by the Transportation Department. This review should be duplicated in all city agencies as well as the BRA and EDIC. It is essential that the agency which will have final responsibility for the long term care and viability of the urban forest coordinate all plantings.

Maintenance: Over the last 5 years the Maintenance Unit's Urban Forest Division has systematically reduced a backlog of tree maintenance requests, pruning at the rate of 2750 annually and removing 350 year. In addition they supervise specialized treatments for disease such as Dutch Elm Disease and respond to such emergencies as snowstorms and hurricanes. Maintenance is particularly critical in the first years after planting and the

specifications for those plantings must include provisions for watering and replacement in the event the tree does not thrive.

Recommendations

- . Develop and implement inventory strategy for street and parkland trees. Inventory plan will include a data base which is capable of tracking new plantings, maintenance operations and removals.
- . Implement recommendation that Parks Department act as clearinghouse and coordinator for all city plantings.
- . Explore ways in which to increase the capacity of the present workforce.
- . Establish a tree nursery at Franklin Park Yard in conjunction with a public high school vocational education program.
- . Develop a city-wide street tree planting plan.
- . Establish maintenance criteria for all plantings.

Community Involvement and Programming

The Parks Department can best develop an effective tree planting and care program with the involvement of neighborhood residents who can participate with the city in preserving the urban forest.

The Parks Department has, therefore, established the Neighborhood Tree Advisory Council Program which empowers the community to help set planting and maintenance priorities, undertake local educational programs, and raise funds for local projects. The Parks Department provides the basic structure and training in tree inventory and maintenance and the community provides complementary manpower. In early 1992 a pilot effort will focus on three neighborhood advisory councils: East Boston, South End and Mattapan.

At a policy level, the Shade Tree Advisory Committee has been re-activated. This group will review and ratify the Shade Tree Policy and will be able to discuss such issues as inventory, disease, species selection on a citywide level, fundraising, public education, strategy, and other broad topics which go beyond the immediate projects faced by the Neighborhood Tree Advisory Councils locally.

Programs in tree planting such as Arbor Day have become annual efforts in the Department's Urban Forestry Division. Usually aimed at school children, the tree planting ceremonies focus on environmental education and tree care. The Parks Department's Cooperative Tree Planting Program successfully combines the investment of residents in the purchase of trees with the Parks Department's abilities in planting and maintenance.

Recommendations

- . Implement a pilot program of the Neighborhood Tree Advisory Councils. Thereafter the program will be made city-wide.
- . Establish an educational strategy to acquaint citizens with basic Parks Department procedures and care of trees. Phase one will include brochures and door knob hangers.
- . Expand Arbor Day and other tree programming to include the education of all ages with regard to urban trees.
- . Develop a vocational program with the Boston Public Schools in horticulture, landscaping and arborculture.
- . Seek alternative public and private funding sources and in-kind services for trees and tree care.

INTRODUCTION

A park system is an integral part of a city's infrastructure. It provides a place for recreation, exercise, and relaxation. A well-planned park system can improve the quality of life for its residents and attract visitors from other cities. The City of Boston has a long history of providing parks for its citizens. In 1822, the first public park, the Public Garden, was established. Since then, the city has continued to expand its park system, creating a network of parks and green spaces throughout the city.

In 1974, the City of Boston established the Department of Recreation and Parks. This department is responsible for the planning, development, and maintenance of the city's park system. The department's mission is to provide a high-quality park system for all residents of the City of Boston. The department's budget for 1975 is \$10,000,000. This budget is used to cover the costs of park planning, development, and maintenance, as well as the salaries of the department's staff.

PROGRAMMING

The Department of Recreation and Parks has a variety of programs and services that it offers to its residents. These programs and services are designed to provide a high-quality park system for all residents of the City of Boston. The department's programs and services include: park planning, development, and maintenance; park programming; and park administration. The department's park planning, development, and maintenance programs are designed to create a network of parks and green spaces throughout the city. The department's park programming programs are designed to provide a variety of recreational and educational activities for its residents. The department's park administration programs are designed to provide a high-quality park system for all residents of the City of Boston.

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INTRODUCTION

A park system that is safe, clean and enjoyable is a key to a positive quality of life. Boston's 192 parks and playgrounds provide City residents of all ages active and passive recreational facilities. Softball and baseball fields, gardens, boathouses, walking and running paths, and golf courses, all help to make Boston healthy and liveable.

In 1985 Mayor Flynn's administration made a commitment to improve the City's entire infrastructure through a five-year capital plan, entitled "Rebuilding Boston". By 1987 a strategic plan for the revival of Boston was in place and promised to rehabilitate 90% of the city-owned parks and playgrounds. Now, with 90% of the city parks rehabilitated, Boston's parks are experiencing a renaissance of use by residents and visitors alike.

Changing demographics throughout the City prompted the Parks Department to seek answers to the varying needs of residents and park users. The Department through random surveys, neighborhood groups, other city agencies and the expertise of recreation providers, reevaluated and planned new park facilities and programs. Results have shown the need for more soccer and baseball fields, family oriented programs and musical events.

The involvement of the community in planning programs has been successful in bringing people back to the parks. Simultaneously, modernized facilities have attracted a new population of park users, creating a self perpetuating demand for more diverse recreation programming and facilities.

To meet the need of the growing park user population, the department broadened the scope of recreational programming, through a continued presence in neighborhood parks and by expanding the capacity of neighborhood sports programs into a city-wide sports camp; expanding partnership programs with environmental groups and non-profit organizations; increasing the menu of programs to include activities such as golf and sailing, that an urban population may otherwise not be able to participate in; expanding recreation year-round; and expanding the number and caliber of neighborhood and downtown concert series and special events.

PROGRAMMING SERVICES TODAY

PEYSICAL EDUCATION

Athletics and physical education has been at the forefront of programming within the City's Parks and Recreation Department since 1894 when the Department illustrated its appreciation for the importance of physical education by purchasing Franklin Field as a site for team games and athletics.

Organized sports were introduced into the parks very early on, by enthusiasts for organized activities and as a result of professionalization of sports such as baseball. These structured activities continue today in revised form.

Physical education and athletics expands beyond league sports, to include developmental, interactive and educational sport clinics with professional and collegiate athletes and sports specialists. The Parks Department provides developmental clinics for youth during summer months in the form of neighborhood sports clinics and through a city-wide sports camp. The sports camp has a multi-faceted purpose to teach youth motor development skills and team work; provide a structured program for youth and other recreation providers; and to provide youth with a positive adult role models through associations with professional athletes and teams.

NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAMS

A close look has been taken at the changing needs of each of neighborhoods within the city. Social and demographic trends have prompted the Parks Department to rethink traditional neighborhood programs. In the spring of 1988 the department did a random telephone survey that illustrated an increased need for family programming, specifically festivals and concerts.

The Department has responded by increasing the number of neighborhood based programs such as concerts, special events, field days, skill development programs and sports clinics. These programs are specifically designed to reflect the social fabric of the neighborhoods in which they serve. Day-time programs are scheduled for youth and evening and weekend programs for families, adults and the elderly.

*environmental
education?*

SPECIAL EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

Special events and festivals are designed to bring together the city as a whole. These events are comprised of one-time activities which take place intermittently throughout the park system and are artistic, historic, ethnic- or audience-specific in nature.

Intended to complement the daily programming activities that exist in the parks, they allow the Department to meet the needs of a more diverse population. Many of the special events and festivals are audience-specific and are partially, if not completely, sponsored by a private funding source.

Special events within the park system include golf tournaments, a kite festival, concerts, privately sponsored events and permitted social events such as holiday celebrations, road races, and festivals.

PERMITTING SERVICES

The strong demand for the limited number of ballfields and other spaces and facilities in the city park system creates, in turn, a demand for a fair and equitable system of allocating use of these facilities. Over the past five years, the Parks Department has consolidated the application, permitting and scheduling process for all ballfields and special events permits. This includes the issuance of over 800 ballfield permits and 700 special events permits annually that serves tens of thousands of constituents including all organized sports leagues. There are permits issued for softball, baseball, rugby, soccer, football and cricket fields; lighted facilities and externally-generated special events.

The Department responsiveness to community-generated sports and special events has resulted in an increased effort to coordinate scheduling, lighting and maintenance services. The centralization of the permitting process has provided a mechanism for departmental accountability and intra-departmental communication in the management of the facilities. In addition, it has helped the department to look at usage patterns, lighting and maintenance costs, types of park users, and sport-specific maintenance needs that will assist us in management issues now and in the future.

PARK RANGERS

Once a seasonal operation, the Boston Park Rangers became a diverse year-round operation in 1988. The staff plans and facilitates an array of outdoor interpretive and environmental programs for residents and visitors of the city. The Rangers have expanded their environmental education programs beyond the parks into the school systems and the urban wilds; increased the number of rangers on foot, on horseback, and on mobile patrols throughout the park system; developed programs that combine recreation with education; and established a Junior Park Ranger Program in coordination with the Boston Youth Clean-Up Corps.

The Park Rangers also provide services through historical and interpretive tours of the Emerald Necklace and historic cemeteries; Harbor Island coastal ecology tours; biking tours; and involvement in special events including fishing derbys, cross-country skiing, the ice skating program, and cross-country track meets.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

The Boston Youth Clean-Up Corps, managed through the Parks and Recreation Department, originated as a human service effort to encourage kids to earn money and learn useful future employment skills during the summer months. Over the past six years, the program has flourished from a program providing 300 clean-up jobs to a highly diversified youth employment initiative providing over 2,100 youths with work in areas of maintenance and beautification of parks, vacant lots, public housing developments, median strips, community gardens, urban wilds, harbor islands and beaches; special tasks such as tree care, welding, painting and construction; recreation assistant positions for sports camps, sailing centers, and park ranger programs; and clerical and staff assistant positions for community-based organizations (C.B.O.'s).

In 1991, the youth aged 14-17 cleaned over 2,215 sites and picked up over 600 tons of debris in the eight week period they were employed. Tree and clean-up crews have assisted the Parks Department maintenance force clean-up from periodic natural disasters and storms, the paint crew repainted fences and removed graffiti in addition to restoring school buildings, the office staff helped to manage the inner workings of the program by inputting all data, helping with personnel issues, and providing clerical support; the C.B.O. staff helped the non-profits and community based agencies supplement the core B.Y.C.C. staff, enabling the C.B.O.'s to better suit their operations to the needs of the neighborhoods.

The B.Y.C.C. is part of the Mayor's Coordinated Summer Employment Program (M.C.S.E.P.) which includes The Action for Boston Community Development, The Boston Private Industry Council, Economic Development and Industrial Corporation, Boston Community Centers, and the Parks Department.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

The general objectives for all of the programming initiatives in the Parks Department are: diversifying park programs, promoting year-round programming, expanding public-private partnerships and maintaining, at a minimum, the current level of programming. Specific objectives follow:

PHYSICAL EDUCATION, NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Monitor the evolving patterns of demographic and socio-economic needs of society. Conduct user surveys and neighborhood meetings to evaluate current programs and future trends.

Expand non-traditional programs for Boston's youth such as: environmental education, golf, volleyball, tennis, sailing, walking and running.

Foster a partnership with the State Department of Tourism and The Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote park programs. Increase communication and coordination of activities.

Work with community-based organizations to identify service areas and coordinate service delivery.

Continue to recruit the area's professional and collegiate sports teams to serve as clinicians and role models in specific programs.

Strive to achieve a more equal balance of sponsored programs both downtown and in the neighborhoods.

Expand our ability to host national programs, by hosting events such as U.S. Youth Games, Special Olympics and the World Cross Country Championships.

PERMITS AND SCHEDULING

Computerize the permitting system, to maximize the use of available fields and staff time.

Automate all ballfield lighting, in order to conserve energy and reduce manpower hours.

Develop a dedicated maintenance fund through a restructured fee policy.

Develop and/or acquire additional fields to accomodate new sports and demand for space.

RANGERS

Continue to strengthen the year-round workforce and year-round programming, in order to increase environmental education throughout the parks system and other venues such as the schools.

Continue to work with other local environmental groups in order to expand the environmental education program in the Boston Public schools and ensure fullest coverage without duplication of effort.

Provide city youth and adults with a menu of environmental and cultural interpretive programming and tours including birdwatching, cross country skiing, fishing derbies, coastal ecology, horticulture, historic tours and the Junior Park Ranger Program.

Strengthen the Rangers' capability for enforcement of parks rules and regulations, to better meet the needs of the park resources and users.

Modernize operating facilities through the renovation of the Franklin Park Ranger Station and the Boston Common Ranger Station/Visitor Information Center.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Expand to a year-round workforce, in order to implement a year-round recycling and clean-up effort and to provide youth with part-time after-school employment.

Broaden the scope of the workforce to include: recycling, composting, maintenance of the urban wilds, carpentry, painting, and arboriculture . This will better meet the needs of the City and to teach youth transferable skills.

Develop gardener mentor programs to teach urban farming skills.

THOROUGHFARES

THOROUGHFARES

Trees in the urban environment include those in backyards and in vacant lots, in plazas and in urban wilds, on city streets and in woodlands of our largest parks. The most visible trees are those lining our major streets, our boulevards and major arterials. Their special contribution to the urban fabric requires an appropriate level of management and care from the city.

INTRODUCTION

For residents and visitors, the major streets -- thoroughfares -- form a major part of the open space system and most often represent the public face of the city. Commonwealth Avenue in the Back Bay exemplifies the thoroughfare ideal: a broad boulevard with a tree-lined, landscaped character. The city's goal is to achieve a similar and appropriate measure of the beauty and comfort provided by such an environment, for all of Boston's thoroughfares: from the Arborway to American Legion Highway, from the Fenway to Melnea Cass Boulevard, from the Riverway to River Street.

By improving the existing quality of life, Boston will attract quality economic development -- residential, commercial, and industrial. A comprehensive system of broad, tree-lined boulevards and thoroughfares most effectively communicates Boston's image as a livable city.

The city's continuing effort to improve its livability and image is a fundamental mission and responsibility of several city agencies. The Parks Department is the agency with responsibility for the maintenance of all street trees. In the past five years, it has emerged as best suited to coordinate the landscape improvement aspects of Boston's thoroughfare reconstruction program. Parks works to assure that reconstructed thoroughfares attain a properly-scaled, tree-lined, landscaped quality that is maintainable, long-lasting, and adaptable to harsh urban conditions. For city agencies that engage in street reconstruction planning, such as the BRA, BTM, BPWD, and PFD/NED, the Parks Department serves as both client and consultant, the in-house landscape design and management authority. Specific current efforts and recommendations follow.

Not only will motorists and pedestrians enjoy newly enhanced thoroughfares, but bicyclists too. Therefore, a discussion of bicycle efforts and recommendations has been included below.

CURRENT INITIATIVES

Grand Boulevards

The Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) has begun an initiative to revive Boston's boulevards -- "the main streets of the city's neighborhoods." The "Grand Boulevards" program provides an urban design framework for boulevard restoration and improvement. Boulevards have been identified; a boulevard typology has been developed; and their historical backgrounds studied. Given the variety of boulevards and boulevard types, design guidelines have been approached on a case-by-case basis. The process has begun with Dorchester Avenue, the main street of Boston's largest neighborhood. A draft of design guidelines for citizens is in the works. Also, Commonwealth Avenue west of Kenmore Square has been studied.

The Parks Department will provide assistance to citizens seeking to improve boulevard landscapes in the context of the BRA-developed design guidelines. Advice and guidance on street tree planting and care are available from the Department's Superintendent of Tree Maintenance.

Street Reconstruction

The Boston Transportation Department has requested the Parks Department's review of major street reconstruction projects. Portions of Blue Hill Avenue, Washington Street, and Columbia Road, as well as Commercial Street in the North End are being or have been reviewed. Columbia Road and Blue Hill Avenue are particularly important to the Department and to the city's system of linked open space: Blue Hill Avenue links important neighborhoods to Boston's largest park, Franklin Park; Columbia Road links two major Boston open spaces -- Franklin Park and the beaches of the Old Harbor MDC Reservation. The inclusion of landscape improvement components has elicited additional community support for necessary road reconstruction projects and has enhanced neighborhood landscapes.

Boylston Street

A master plan has been developed by the Boston Public Works Department for streetscape improvements to Boylston Street from the Fenway to Arlington Street in the heart of the Back Bay. This master plan will guide streetscape improvements generated by private or public actions. The Office of Capital Planning,

the BRA, BTD, Back Bay Architectural Commission, citizen groups, as well as the Parks Department contributed input to the master plan. The plan will provide a consistent yardstick for assuring the quality of streetscape improvements on Back Bay's most important commercial artery and one of Boston's major gateways.

Neighborhood Enterprise

The Public Facilities Department has undertaken a new program to improve neighborhood commercial districts, "Neighborhood Enterprise." Targeted districts receive attention through development projects managed by the Neighborhood Enterprise Division of the Public Facilities Department. As an aid to the initial planning for the Neighborhood Enterprise program, the Planning and Development Unit of the Parks Department contributed an open space analysis for the identified neighborhood enterprise districts.

Where streetscape improvements are deemed essential to a district's success, the Neighborhood Enterprise program will consult Parks staff on street trees, a Park Department responsibility. Review of thoroughfare development plans, and guidance on the transplanting of existing street trees and the planting of new trees and medians, is provided by the Parks Department thoroughfares review team, composed of a landscape architect, the Superintendent of Tree Maintenance, and a planner.

Grove Hall, an important commercial center in Roxbury, will receive a Neighborhood Enterprise streetscape project. The Parks Department thoroughfares review team is now reviewing the design and the maintenance agreement. Their goal is to assure a successful, long-lasting streetscape improvement, maintainable by the limited resources of the Department and the involved community groups.

Other enterprise districts include Codman Square, where a new open space is being created; Uphams Corners, where street tree improvements are being investigated; and Cleary Square, where improved, greener open space is being sought.

IN-HOUSE RESEARCH

The Planning and Development Unit of the Parks Department researches, on an on-going basis, the available data on the

relationship between plant materials, particularly trees, and air quality and microclimate. Unit staff also continually review the latest horticultural technology to develop a better understanding of the protection measures needed by plant materials in harsh urban conditions.

BOSTON BICYCLE ADVISORY GROUP

In response to the needs of bicycle users in Boston, the city and the bicycle user community have developed an informal group which regularly meets to discuss mutual concerns and issues. Chaired by the Environment Department, this group includes a representative from the Parks Department. This group promotes a dialogue between the city and bicycle users. Issues such as bicycle parking, bicycle commuting, and the development of a strategy for local economic development through bicycle-related industries are some of the topics currently under discussion. This group provides a means for city officials to keep on top of developments in bicycle usage and technology. As air quality becomes a larger factor in transportation and land use planning and regulation, such input will prove increasingly valuable to the city's development process.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

The city is looking forward to more collaboration between its agencies that have responsibility for the thoroughfare environment: BRA, BTD, OCP, BPWD, PFD/NED, and Parks, as well as with interest groups such as merchants, neighborhood associations, and open space user groups. The following are the city's recommended actions for the next five years:

- o Develop a citywide thoroughfare needs assessment and priority plan. This will help inform the planning and capital funding processes for street reconstruction, and the development of design guidelines.
- o Develop a means of organizing local businesses, institutions, and residents along thoroughfares, so as to create partnerships between the city and the private sector for maintaining existing and proposed thoroughfares landscapes.

- o Work with the MDC and MDPW to improve their maintenance of thoroughfares under their jurisdiction, such as Melnea Cass Boulevard (MDPW) and Morton Street-Gallivan Boulevard (MDC).
- o Work to improve the Emerald Necklace bikepath to prevent user conflicts, through graphic stencilling and other means of delineating the path.
- o Develop a set of guidelines for assuring sufficient space for pedestrians and bicyclists in new and reconstructed streets, for both recreational and transportation purposes.
- o Work with the Massachusetts Bicycle Advisory Committee and bicycle user groups to achieve Boston's linkage to the Washington-to-Boston East Coast Greenway.
- o Continue to work with the Boston Bicycle Advisory Group on city bicycle issues and concerns.

The City of Boston recognizes the importance of Urban Wilds within its open space system. These areas of natural beauty are ecologically important and provide a link between the urban environment and the natural world. They are also important for their historical and cultural significance. The City of Boston is committed to the preservation and enhancement of these areas. This report provides a description of the Urban Wilds in Boston and discusses the importance of their preservation. It also provides recommendations for the future management of these areas.

URBAN WILDS

Urban Wilds are defined as areas of natural beauty and ecological importance within the urban environment. They are typically characterized by a mix of natural and cultural resources. Urban Wilds can be found in a variety of settings, including parks, open spaces, and natural areas. They are important for a number of reasons. First, they provide a link between the urban environment and the natural world. Second, they provide a source of recreation and enjoyment for residents. Third, they provide a source of ecological services, such as air and water purification. Finally, they provide a source of historical and cultural information. The City of Boston is committed to the preservation and enhancement of these areas. This report provides a description of the Urban Wilds in Boston and discusses the importance of their preservation. It also provides recommendations for the future management of these areas.

Background

In 1974, the Boston Planning Department initiated a study of the City's open space system. The study was conducted by the Boston Planning Department and the Boston Conservation Commission. The study identified a number of areas of natural beauty and ecological importance within the urban environment. These areas were designated as Urban Wilds. The City of Boston is committed to the preservation and enhancement of these areas. This report provides a description of the Urban Wilds in Boston and discusses the importance of their preservation. It also provides recommendations for the future management of these areas.

The City of Boston recognizes the importance of Urban Wilds within its open space system; these areas of natural beauty are ecologically vital to a balance between the dense urban built environment and untouched or protected open spaces that are different from the designed and manicured landscapes of Boston's parkland. Rock outcroppings, marshes, woodlands, pastures and meadows, swamps, hilltops, and ponds help to define the visual qualities and diversity which make Boston a livable city. Moreover, Urban Wilds serve an ecological role which must be protected for the benefit of the city's environment.

Urban Wilds are varying sizes, serve different ecological needs (i.e. marshes and woodlands), and can define past topographies, natural history and neighborhood development. The Urban Wilds under the City of Boston's jurisdiction are equally varied. Some are small rock outcroppings such as Fernald Rock and West/Austin Street Urban Wilds, which contribute to neighborhood topography and open space; some are parks as with Puddingstone Garden in Roxbury; and yet others such as Golden Stairs in East Boston are park features. Larger urban wilds are often of significant ecological importance in addition to their neighborhood and historical importance. Sherrin Street Woods in Hyde Park and Allendale Woods in West Roxbury are large city-owned Urban Wilds which are among these types of property and are also designated conservation land by the Boston Conservation Commission. Sections of Franklin Park and George Wright golf course are also natural areas on par with conservation land. This type of land deserves greater and different natural areas maintenance and management. It is the intent of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the Conservation Commission to acknowledge these differences in development of a plan for the next five years within the context of larger policy in acquisition and protection.

Background

In 1976, the Boston Redevelopment Authority issued a landmark document which inventoried and offered recommendations for Boston's remaining unprotected open space. "Boston's Urban Wilds: A Natural Area Conservation Program" defined 143 areas privately and publicly owned city-wide and categorically ranked them for significance while offering strategies for their preservation within a limited spectrum of protection mechanisms. The Boston Redevelopment Authority study offered a plan to the City of Boston's planning and conservation agencies to begin a program of land protection. The irreplaceable nature of this particular open space type reinforced the idea of protection, but by defining particular available spaces, priorities and an aggressive strategy for acquisition could take place.

The Boston Natural Areas Fund was incorporated in 1977 as a non-profit agency to work with city and state agencies to secure Urban Wilds inventoried in the 1976 report. Since then, using available federal funding programs for environmental protection BNAF has successfully assisted the City of Boston and conservation entities with acquisition, advocacy and planning for sensitive natural areas in need of conservation designation. More than 48 acres of conservation land were acquired by the City of Boston with BNAF assistance including BNAF's purchase of 8 wilds transferred to the City's Conservation Commission. More recently BNAF has developed educational walking tours of Boston's Urban Wilds to encourage understanding and proper use of these spaces.

Large parcels of land such as Belle Isle Marsh in East Boston, and Stonybrook Reservation in Hyde Park are owned by the Metropolitan District Commission. Other state agencies have designated Urban Wilds under their jurisdiction. These include the State Department of Mental Health (Boston State Hospital), Massport Authority (Wood Isle Marsh), and Mass Bay Transportation Authority (Stimson Street, West Roxbury). With the exception of the MDC-owned properties, state land is not protected from development or encroachment.

The City of Boston owns urban wilds which are divided in ownership among several city agencies including the Real Property Department, the Boston Redevelopment Authority, the Boston Housing Authority, the School Department, the Environment Department (Conservation Commission), the Parks and Recreation Department, the Boston Housing Authority, and the Boston Water and Sewer Commission. With the exception of the Conservation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Department, other land under the city's jurisdiction is generally unprotected and prone to development activity.

Many of the larger urban wilds are unprotected and under private jurisdiction, whether by non profit institutions, individuals, or developers. Some success has been found in protection of private Urban Wilds through the use of conservation restrictions held by the Conservation Commission. Conservation restrictions offer private entities tax relief. Non-profit institutions, however, as non tax paying entities, present a particular problem in selecting mechanisms for protection.

Current City Initiatives

The City of Boston's efforts in the acquisition, protection and preservation of Urban Wilds combines the operations capacity of the Parks and Recreation Department with the legal mechanisms and ownership capabilities of the Environment Department through the Boston Conservation Commission.

Since 1989 the Parks Department has been maintaining Urban Wilds designated as conservation land and owned by the Conservation Commission. The Parks Department's Maintenance Division and the Boston Youth Clean Up Corps have been providing regular spring, summer and fall maintenance to Urban Wilds in an attempt to make them accessible for educational and recreation purposes and manage their natural qualities. Additionally, both agencies advocate for the protection and acquisition of urban wilds to the City's inventory. The Parks Department and the Environment Department have installed signage at 12 city-owned conservation areas, and neighborhood and community groups have been enlisted to conduct clean-ups and special projects in the Urban Wilds.

Through the combined efforts of the Conservation Commission and the Parks Department Urban Wilds owned by the Public Facilities Department and the Real Property Department have been assembled under the Conservation Commission or the Parks Department to ensure their protection as open space.

The recent acquisition of the Bussey Brook Urban Wild by the Parks Department establishes the Department as a committed player in land acquisition, management and protection. Nevertheless, the City of Boston faces difficult battles ahead for the acquisition and/or protection of Urban Wilds. The 1990 Boston Urban Wilds Report, published by the Boston Natural Areas Fund, updates the BRA report of 1976. Its findings indicate that more than 600 acres of Urban Wilds have been lost since 1976 to development, and among this acreage, 32 wilds have been lost altogether. The report also indicates that more than half of the originally designated Urban Wilds remain unprotected. The report also recommends increased maintenance, environmental education and more stringent protection mechanisms.

The strides made by city agencies over the past few years must therefore be augmented in order to adequately address the considerable challenges of the next several years. The focus of the next five years will be on four areas: 1) Acquisition and Protection, 2) Maintenance and Management, 3) Partnerships and Programming, and 4) Funding initiatives. In this plan, city agency priorities will be established within these broad objectives and the roles of city agencies will be defined in order to meet these objectives. Partnerships with community groups and interest groups will also be addressed.

Inventory

The Boston Natural Areas Fund resurvey of the Urban Wilds provides the City with a detailed inventory. The City of Boston embraces the plans recommendations and will use this inventory as an initial blueprint for building its target list for acquisition and protection.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Acquisition and Protection

Among the City of Boston's protected Urban Wilds there are some which are important to their respective neighborhoods, but are not particularly unique in ecological systems. Many are, in fact, more valuable as traditional parks or gardens. The Parks Department with its staff of horticulturalists, landscape architects and trained parks maintenance personnel, is better equipt to treat such areas as parks. These sites shall be formally transferred to the Parks Department. A primary example is Puddingstone Gardens. Similar sites slated for acquisition shall be acquired directly by the Parks Department.

Urban Wilds which are under the jurisdiction of other city agencies should be transferred to the Boston Conservation Commission inventory or to the Parks Department based on their fulfillment of Criteria for Acquisition (see list).

The Boston Redevelopment Authority and the Boston Public Facilities Department should pursue conservation restrictions in conjunction with their development activities. Similarly, city agencies should advocate with private open space advocacy groups for acquisition of development rights or conservation restrictions for threatened Urban Wilds which it cannot acquire. These include areas such as Hellenic Hill in Jamaica Plain and the Calf Pasture Urban Wild at Columbia Point.

The Boston Parks Department and the Boston Conservation Commission, in developing an acquisition policy for the City of Boston, should include criteria for Urban Wilds acquisition and develop a list of ecologically sensitive lands for acquisition. The following list provides guidelines for the acquisition of natural areas.

Criteria for Acquisition of Conservation Land in the City of Boston (may want to box in as an illustration)

In determining worthiness for acquisition the following criteria should be adopted by the Boston Parks Commission and the Conservation Commission in priority order in which they are listed in order to evaluate Urban Wilds.

1. Rare or endangered species on the site.
2. Habitat for rare or endangered species including feeding grounds, spawning areas or seasonal habitat.
3. Habitat for wildlife (non endangered).
4. Site's ability to act as a buffer against human density and pollution impacts and thereby enhance the quality of an adjacent preserve as habitat.
5. Sites ability to act as a buffer against human density and pollution impacts and thereby enhance the quality of adjacent waterways or other significant natural resources.

6. Usefulness of site for environmental education; opportunities for youth.
7. Current lack of protection. If a site meets the above criteria but is also already afforded protection either by law or its current ownership, it will be of lower priority for acquisition.
8. Site provides open space in neighborhood where it is otherwise lacking. These sites shall be evaluated according to the above criteria for conservation designation or for parkland.

Maintenance and Management

All Urban Wilds have different reasons for having been termed Wilds. They are individually unique open spaces, generally unplanned and of great importance to their local communities. Many of the wilds have unique ecological features, such as the floodplain marshes of Dumped Shoreline in West Roxbury along the Charles River, or woodland and wildflower areas of Allendale Woods. For these wilds, extra care must be taken to ensure that the natural resources for which these areas were originally preserved are safeguarded. The staff of the Conservation Commission, acting as the City's primary ecologist will be responsible for working closely with the Urban Wilds planner at the Parks and Recreation Department on resource maintenance and protection plans, as well as habitat enrichment plans for selected Wilds.

The Superintendent of Trees for the City of Boston will be engaged for review of these plans as well as oversight of all woodlands or wilds.

As soon as possible, maintenance plans for each city owned urban wild will be drafted with particular attention to preservation of ecologically significant resources.

The City of Boston's Youth Clean-Up Corps have proven to be an ideally matched maintenance force for summer work in city-owned Urban Wilds. This partnership should continue; training for young people within natural areas provide environmental education in addition to job training.

More intensive training in natural area maintenance and management should be a focus of the Parks Department, and Urban Wilds maintenance for city-owned Urban Wilds should be extended to a year round cycle.

Partnerships and Programming

Whenever possible the City of Boston will seek to form partnerships with other agencies and private organizations to provide services to Urban Wilds. Recently, a partnership with the Appalachian Mountain Club has resulted in the development of a well-planned trail through Allendale Woods and the adjacent land adjacent to the VFW Parkway under the ownership of the Parks Department.

The Massachusetts Audubon Society has been active in providing area-specific information on habitat values and has shared construction specifications for environmentally benign boardwalks for use in wetlands areas. The Conservation Commission will use these plans as it seeks to construct access to wetlands at the Eldon Street Urban Wild in Roslindale.

The Boston Natural Areas Fund, Boston Youth Clean Up Corps, and City Year are valued partners in the effort to clean-up and protect Urban Wilds.

Partnerships with community groups and neighborhood associations should be sought in order to assist with maintenance and advocacy for protected and unprotected Wilds. Efforts should be made at broad public outreach through walking tours and newsletters to supplement those of the Boston Natural Areas Fund. The Boston Park Rangers and their outreach to Boston residents and tourists as well as their student environmental education efforts should be broadened, using Urban Wilds as outdoor classrooms and laboratories.

The Condor Street Urban Wild in East Boston, a protected waterfront conservation property, shall be enhanced as a natural area and used as an interpretive facility for environmental education. Its sea wall should be rebuilt and the landscape and beachfront should be planted with appropriate seaside habitat materials.

Guidebooks and pamphlets should be developed for city conservation land and natural areas, and a signage program, based on those already developed by the Parks Department for its 12 city-owned Urban Wilds.

Resource Development

While current budgets do not allow for planned acquisition, it is recognized that acquisition of sensitive lands is a high priority in meeting the City's commitment to environmental quality and protection. Therefore, to meet the need of the future, a fund shall be established for the acquisition of ecologically sensitive lands. The funds will be used only for purchase of land and maintenance of said lands. Funds will be solicited from private individuals, non profit environmental groups and land preservation organizations, foundations, corporations, and public agencies, particularly federal sources.

Appendix 13

City of Boston Draft Open Space Plan (1/92)

ORGANIZATION

PURPOSE

CLIENTS / AUDIENCE

ETHNIC COMPOSITION

AGES ☐ Under 5 ☐ 5-12 ☐ 12-18 ☐ 18-30 ☐ 30-39 ☐ 40-49

☐ 50-59 ☐ 60+

PRIMARY INCOME LEVEL ☐ Under 10,000 ☐ 10-20,000 ☐ 20-35,000

☐ 35-50,000 ☐ 50,000+

SPECIAL NEEDS

RECREATION / SPORTS / OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

Go to next question on checklist.

1. Do you use any parks, playgrounds, gardens, dog lots, ballfields or courts in the South End / Lower Roxbury, other than the ones we mentioned?

2. Do you think the South End / Lower Roxbury needs more open spaces?

Does it have sufficient kinds? What would you like to see?

3. If you don't use any of the public open spaces in the South End / Lower Roxbury, why not?

Do you use any public parks, playgrounds or gardens in other neighborhoods?

Additional Comments

SOUTH END NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY

COMMUNITY LEADER INTERVIEW

This survey is being conducted by Boston Urban Gardeners for the Boston Redevelopment Authority as part of an Open Space Needs Assessment and study of the South End and Lower Roxbury.

A

ORGANIZATION _____

PURPOSE _____

CLIENTS / PARTICIPANTS _____

ETHNIC COMPOSITION _____

AGES ☐ under 5 ☐ 5-12 ☐ 12-15 ☐ 15-20 ☐ 20-35 ☐ 35-50
 ☐ 50-65 ☐ 65+

PRIMARY INCOME LEVELS ☐ under 10,000 ☐ 10-20,000 ☐ 20-35,000
 ☐ 35-50,000 ☐ 50,000+

SPECIAL NEEDS _____

RECREATION / SPORTS / OUTDOOR PROGRAMS _____

B Go to chart/interview on overleaf.

C

1. Do you use any parks, playgrounds, gardens, tot lots, ballfields or courts in the South End / Lower Roxbury, other than the ones we mentioned?

2. Do you think the South End / Lower Roxbury needs more open spaces?

Does it need different kinds? What would you like to see?

3. If you don't use any of the public open spaces in the South End / Lower Roxbury, why not?

Do you use other public parks, playgrounds or gardens in other neighborhoods?

Additional Comments:

Do you think the South
End / Lower Roxbury needs
more space like this? y/n
Consent

SOUTH END NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY

This survey is being conducted by Boston Urban Gardeners for the Boston Redevelopment Authority as part of an Open Space Needs Assessment and Study of the South End and Lower Roxbury.

CENSUS TRACT # _____ NEIGHBORHOOD _____

DAY/DATE _____ ☐ OPEN SPACE ☐ STREET ☐ LEADER

TIME OF DAY ☐ MORNING ☐ LUNCHTIME ☐ EARLY AFTERNOON
☐ LATE AFTERNOON ☐ EVENING

NAME (optional) _____ SEX ☐ M ☐ F AGE _____

ETHNICITY _____ MARITAL STATUS ☐ S ☐ M ☐ LT ☐ D

HOUSEHOLD INCOME: ☐ under 10,000 ☐ 10-20,000 ☐ 20-35,000
☐ 35-50,000 ☐ 50,000+

HANDICAPS (if any) _____ LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME _____

NO. OF CHILDREN, IF ANY _____ AGES _____

HOMEOWNER / TENANT _____ HOUSEHOLD TYPE AND SIZE _____

LENGTH OF TIME LIVING IN THE S.E./L.R. _____ CHILDHOOD HOME _____

LENGTH OF TIME LIVING IN BOSTON _____

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION:
WORK _____ LEISURE _____

B Go to chart/interview on overleaf.

C

1. Do you use any parks, playgrounds, gardens, tot lots, ballfields or courts in the South End / Lower Roxbury, other than the ones we mentioned?

2. Do you think the South End / Lower Roxbury needs more open spaces?

Does it need different kinds? What would you like to see?

3. If you don't use any of the public open spaces in the South End / Lower Roxbury, why not?

Do you use other public parks, playgrounds or gardens in other neighborhoods?

Additional Comments: _____

